

# PANTHER GEOGRAPHY

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

What an extraordinary week! A welcome (but “false”) spring came to visit us in Milwaukee during the third week of February. During that time high temperatures climbed into the mid-60s to low-70s four times, breaking the all-time high for the day each time. Further, the 71° recorded on February 22<sup>nd</sup> was the highest temperature ever recorded in Milwaukee during winter months (December-February).

Of course everyone is asking me if this means “real” spring (when plant growth starts) will be early this year. It is still too soon to know that yet, as cooler and more seasonable high temperatures (30s) are forecast to return to Milwaukee for the rest of the month of February. However, the earliest lilac leaves ever started emerging in my backyard was March 14<sup>th</sup> (back in 2012, which was also the year with the earliest average start of spring across the entire lower-48). So stay tuned. If we get additional warm weather in early March, there may be more records on the way in spring 2017. You can follow the progression of the start of the spring growing season across the country at: <https://www.usanpn.org/data/spring>

In departmental news, we will welcome a distinguished geographer to campus in April. Prof. Trevor Barnes (University of British Columbia) will give the spring 2017 Harold and Florence Mayer lecture on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

I am particularly pleased to report that eleven of our graduate students will be presenting papers this year at the Association of American Geographer’s Annual meeting in Boston from April 5<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup>.

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate the accomplishments of our undergraduate majors and graduate students with a day full of student research presentations, award announcements, and graduate recognitions. Lastly, overall departmental enrollment for the spring 2017 semester showed a strong increase over recent years. I invite you to read all about our many other noteworthy achievements in the rest of this newsletter!

We appreciate your continued support, and hope that all of you will contact us and share your own news.



Mark D. Schwartz  
Chair, Department of Geography



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College of Letters & Science

## IWA TV INTERVIEW - NICK PADILLA

On October 24, 2016, Nicholas Padilla appeared on *International Focus* to discuss the failed peace accord in Colombia, and the country's hope to salvage the deal.

On Sunday, October 2, 2016, Colombians barely rejected a peace accord negotiated between the government and the Armed Revolutionary Forces of Colombia (FARC). The plebiscite asked Colombians to approve or reject a deal the government of Juan Manuel Santos had negotiated with the FARC that created a comprehensive five-point plan to demobilize FARC guerrillas, reintegrate them into Colombian society, and realize justice after a decades-long battle. The vote was a surprising rejection of 'peace' that included misinformation campaigns to stoke fears among voters. More importantly, the failed referendum reflected Colombians' dissatisfaction with the question itself. Approximately 38% of Colombians turned out to vote, and the regional variations in voters' responses reflect the complex histories and geographies of violence in Colombia. Indeed, all Colombians want peace, yet they disagree on the means to achieve that end.

The episode, "Postponing Peace in Colombia", can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yfDlZsB1pgw>.

**Congratulations to our recent Geography graduates:**

**Ashley Hoerz (MA)**  
**Nicholas Padilla (PhD)**

## NEW ARRIVALS

We are pleased to welcome several new additions to the UWM Geography family!

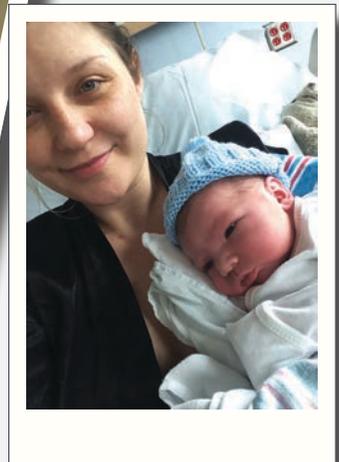


PhD student, Yingbin Deng, and his wife, Renrong Chen, welcomed a new baby girl to their family. On December 13, 2016, Jasmine Deng was born healthy and at 6 pounds, 10 ounces.

PhD student, Feng Pan, and his wife welcomed a new baby boy, Klein, to their family on March 6.



PhD student, Rebecca Wolfe, and her family welcomed a new baby girl to their family. Harriet Amelia Wolfe was born at 3:10am on February 17th. The Wolfe Family is madly in love with their new addition, and Naomi is already proving to be a fantastic big sister and helper.



PhD student, Jana Viel, and her family welcomed a healthy baby boy, Hutchinson ("Hutch") to their family on April 2.



## CETL SYMPOSIUM



Geography faculty and graduate students presented at the UWM Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning's 2nd Annual Teaching and Learning Symposium. Geography faculty members Kristin Sziarto and Alison Donnelly, along with graduate students Minji Kim,

Sohyung Lim, and Katie Merkle, participated.

Sziarto, Lim, and Merkle presented on a set of lessons using sketch mapping that they are testing in a world regional geography course this spring. The mapping exercises ask students to map both personal migration experiences (their own or their family's) and refugees' stories. The hope is that linking people's life narratives and mapping will help students think critically about the maps of refugees they see in the media. They are developing a research project to study the effects of these exercises on students' thinking about maps.



Sziarto, Donnelly, and Kim gave a lively presentation and mini-workshop on Effective Teaching Assistants aimed at:

- Recognizing the pivotal role played by TAs in delivering a high-quality learning experience to undergraduate students at UWM, and
- Developing a program of support and training for TAs to facilitate their role as teachers.



They presented their recently developed *Teaching Assistant Handbook*, which provides a framework and structure for the job's role and responsibilities along with useful information and advice.

Emphasis was placed on how in-class evaluation and observation, both peer-to-peer and by the instructor, is designed to make life easier not harder, and how this process can identify teaching needs and subsequently feed into a tailored training program. The overall feedback from the audience was positive with a future plan to share resources.

The presentation is available for online viewing at <https://tinyurl.com/ldlsyyq>

(The presentation begins at the 6:54 mark.)

(Photos courtesy of Gainbi Park and Minji Kim)

## UWM REACHES OUT DURING GIS DAY



Over 200 geo-geeks descended on the Golda Meir Library to celebrate GIS Day on November 16<sup>th</sup>, a fifteen-plus year tradition at UWM.

Sponsored by the UWM GIS Council and

a number of departments and local businesses, it was one of about a thousand GIS Day events that celebrate what GIS does for our world. It was also an invitation to the Milwaukee community to get involved in UWM's programs including the GIS Certificate.

This year's UWM GIS Day balanced information sessions with hands-on workshops, a student GIS project competition, and tours of the American Geographical Society Library. Following pizza, Matt Richardson gave the lunchtime keynote, 'The End of the Static Map'. Four five-minute, 20-slide Ignite talks rounded out the mid-day program. The six morning and afternoon hands-on workshops ranged from an intro for newbies to advanced topics like Python scripting.

Bahram Khazaei won first place and a stipend of \$300 in the best graduate student/GIS certificate student category of the student GIS competition. Gainbi Park won second place with a stipend of \$200. Robert Schneider, PhD, from the UWM Department of Urban Planning, ChangShan Wu, PhD, and Zengwang Xu, PhD, from the UWM Department of Geography, Emily Champagne, GISP, and Jay Feiker, GISP, both from the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, were the judges.

Donna Genzmer, Director, Cartography & GIS Center, chaired the event with help from the GIS Club. She encourages everyone to get involved. It's a once-a-year opportunity to expand your GIS perspective and to share your knowledge. **Next year's GIS Day is on November 15, 2017. Planning starts during the summer. Donna's e-mail is [DGS@uwm.edu](mailto:DGS@uwm.edu). More information is at <https://uwm.edu/gis-council/gisday/>.**

## PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS

- Yingbin Deng was selected to present his paper, "Spectral mixture analysis: When and how to apply a weighting scheme", as part of the Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Science and Systems Honors Paper Competition at the 2017 American Association of Geographers' Annual Meeting in Boston.
- Nick Padilla received a UWM Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies Graduate Research/Travel Award for 2017.
- Yui Hashimoto presented her paper, "Fast food workers, economic development, and the politics of social reproduction in Milwaukee" at the Women's and Gender Studies Brown Bag series on February 9, 2017.
- Gainbi Park won second place at the Student GIS Project Competition at UWM's GIS Day in November 2016. Her project, "Exploring the social vulnerability of the United States at multiple spatial scales from 1990-2010," examined to what extent social vulnerability to natural hazards in the U.S. has varied over space during the past three decades at different spatial scales. This study identified the inherent local structure of social vulnerability using geographically weighted principal component analysis (GWPCA) and highlighted the necessity of local spatial statistics to better understand the major factors contributing to social vulnerability.



On October 22, 2016, Prof. Woonsup Choi led a field trip for students enrolled in Geography 120 – Our Physical Environment. The field trip included visits to the UWM Field Station in Saukville and Doctor's Park in Fox Point.

## STUDENT PROFILE: MATT RUDMAN, BA 2016

I started at UWM in the Fall of 2013, and, during my first semester, I volunteered for the Office of Sustainability to assist in the campus' compost operations and garden management. The following year I was offered the position to run Compost Operations, together with fellow alumni Katlyn Pluer. Through this position, I learned how to manage a large-scale organic waste stream, and my interest in urban agriculture grew. As an undergrad focusing on Environmental Geography, I decided to conduct my final colloquium research on how a university engages and manages its organic waste stream.



During my final semester in Fall 2016, I became the Surplus Manager for UWM. The UWM Surplus Program helps manage campus' discarded furniture, equipment, and computers. My experience was unique, exciting, and challenging and it provided me with the ability to build myself as a student, as well as a geographer.

After graduation, I was hired by Groundwork Milwaukee, an environmental non-profit organization that collaborates with organizations and government agencies to develop partnerships that promote environmental, economic, and social well-being. As Associate Director, I am involved in many aspects of the organization, including maintaining our floating gardens, assisting the GIScience program led by a fellow Panther geography alumnus, Thomas Welcenbach, and working with the Milwaukee Urban Gardens program. This summer I will also be managing Kilbourn Gardens on North Avenue near Booth Street, which is Groundwork MKE's flagship garden.

From mapping for the River Revitalization Foundation as a service learner for a geography course, to working on tree inventory at the Mequon Nature Preserve for fieldwork, to teaching workshops at UWM's GIS Day – the Department of Geography helped me develop skills and provided me with the tools I needed to grab a compass and venture out into my community in search of change, environmental justice, and food sovereignty. Now, with my tool belt on, Groundwork Milwaukee has given me the opportunity to make an impact here in the community that I call home.

# ALUMNI UPDATES

## KATIE WILLIAMS PhD - 2015



*Overlooking Lake Superior from the Superior Hiking Trail near Lutsen, Minnesota*

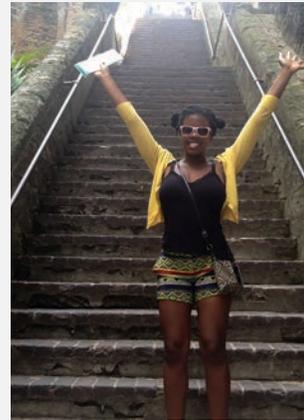
After leaving UWM in May 2015, I became a Geographer for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research and Development (ORD) in Duluth, Minnesota. I am one of a team of researchers who study community (city) decision-making in the Great Lakes region. ORD supports other EPA offices and programs through research.

The main project I am working on is "mapping" how the City of Duluth is redefining its western neighborhoods through environmental remediation and restoration. It is a process-based investigation of interactions between city departments, community groups, and other entities. It has been an amazing opportunity to learn more about the intersection of program implementation, community activism, and (human) environmental change. Somethings never change...I still crash meetings to gather data.

An example of a project that I am working on now is the execution of a health impact assessment (HIA) on a habitat restoration project. HIAs are evidence-based policy recommendations that start with public and stakeholder consultation. The habitat restoration in question is adjacent to a neighborhood with a lot of brownfields and is the subject of an EPA-funded Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Grant. Organizing the HIA has included neighborhood outreach, city consultation, and coordination between EPA and state agencies. Research over the last year and a half prepared us to connect with the people – neighbors and agencies – for this project. For example, parts of the shore and wetlands that were important to many who live near the projects, and they feel very connected to the sites. Thus, we utilized participatory mapping to solicit input about both present conditions, as well as the future concept plans.

The best part of living in Duluth is that nature and society are right next to each other everywhere you look. My husband and I live three blocks from a scenic hiking trail (Superior Hiking Trail) in the middle of the city and when I take a break at the lab, I walk by three waterfalls.

## KARRA BARNES BA - 2013 GIS Certificate - 2015



While I was obtaining my GIS Certificate in 2014-2015, I had two internships. The first internship was at the Cartography and GIS Center under the fantastic supervision of Donna Genzmer. There, I administered UWM's ArcGIS Online site, compiled data necessary for map preparation, and coordinated map production.

The second internship I held was at the Supply Chain Management Institute (SCMI), where I worked for the incredible Dr. Anthony Ross. At SCMI, I successfully brought the integration and usage of GIS practices to supply chain management based projects and generated map-based analysis of national commodity flows and manufacturing industries.

2016 was full of wonderful accomplishments and experiences. In April, I obtained a full-time, permanent position at a wonderful non-profit called Chicago Wilderness (CW). My primary responsibilities include setting up a regional information system to build capacity and momentum for our partners, creating publication-quality maps, and creating and implementing a Data Management Plan for CW and our partners who anticipate sharing data with us.

My favorite experience of 2016 was living in a vanagon for two weeks with three friends and traveling along the West Coast, starting in San Francisco and ending in Portland. We explored Chinatown, the mystifying Yosemite and Redwoods National Parks, and so many other beautiful parks and beaches.

I was a miserable wreck when I couldn't find a full-time job in my field after receiving my BA. Instead of giving up on my dreams, I went back to UWM and that decision turned my dreams into a reality as cliché as that sounds. I couldn't be more thankful to everyone at UWM who supported and encouraged me. This university will forever hold a special place in my heart.

## ALUMNI UPDATES CONTINUED

### CLAIRE REUNING MA - 2013



During my graduate studies at UWM I had a part-time position at the International Institute of Wisconsin (IIW) where I developed a cultural orientation program for newly arrived Burmese refugees. After graduation, I accepted a full-time position at IIW, and I continued teaching cultural orientation, built relationships with community partners for various projects, and supervised undergraduate

interns and graduate students. It was a privilege to welcome people who came to Milwaukee as refugees and an honor to teach them practical skills that they needed to be successful in their new home. Despite the challenges that the families I worked with face on a regular basis, I am proud of how well many of them are doing today.

In July 2016 I accepted a position in the Office of Global Health at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW). While it was a difficult decision to leave the refugee field, I am enjoying the opportunity to work in higher education and look at global issues through the lens of health and healthcare. The Office of Global Health supports MCW's faculty and trainees in their pursuit to advance the college's missions of research, patient care, education, and community engagement through equitable international and domestic partnerships. In my role, I assist medical students and doctors from overseas to prepare to observe patient care at the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center, gather data for our office's online map depicting faculty Global Health activity, and provide administrative support for faculty-community partner grant applications, conferences, and other initiatives.

The project I'm most passionate about is our office's role in a grassroots coalition planning the "Our City of Nations Refugee and Immigrant" conference that will be held at UWM in June. It's great to make connections from my previous position out in the field to my current role at an academic medical center. While I never imagined I'd work in a medical school, I value the clear vision that our office has and how the programs we administer foster respect for diversity and empathy among current and future physicians.

## FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

**Choi, W., F. Pan, and C. Wu**, "Impacts of climate change and urban growth on the streamflow characteristics of the Milwaukee River (Wisconsin, USA)," *Regional Environmental Change*, DOI: 10.1007/s10113-016-1083-3.

**Moore, N. and McCarthy, L.** 2016. Debating Temporary Uses for Vacant Urban Sites: Insights for practice from a stakeholder workshop. *Planning Practice and Research*, 31:3, 347-57.

**Monahan, W. B., Rosemartin, A., Gerst, K. L., Fisichelli, N. A., Ault, T., Schwartz, M. D., Gross, J. E., & J. F. Weltzin**, 2016: Climate Change is Advancing Spring Onset across the U.S. National Park System. *Ecosphere* 7(10): e01465.

**Liu, L., Zhang, X., Donnelly, A. and Liu, X.**, 2016. "Interannual variations in spring phenology and their response to climate change across the Tibetan Plateau from 1982 to 2013." *International Journal of Biometeorology* 60(10), 1563-1575.

**Alison Donnelly, Rong Yu and Heather Geyer.** 2016. "Determining if Irish Winter Migrant Waterbirds are Changing Their Duration of Stay as Temperature Warms". *Biology and Environment: Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*, 116B(2), 1-12.

**Please join us on social media! We invite all alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends to connect with us and use these as spaces for networking.**



**UWMilwaukeeGeography**



**<http://tinyurl.com/UWMGeogLI>**

# FACULTY NEWS

Anne Bonds and her UWM colleagues Lorraine Halinka Malcoe (Public Health), Jenna Loyd (Public Health), Jenny Plevin (doc|UWM), and Robert Smith (History) presented the 47th Annual Morris Fromkin Memorial Lecture: "Transforming Justice: Youth-led Analysis of Mass Criminalization in Milwaukee." The lecture featured screenings of documentary videos produced by the Youth Video Collective.

Alison Donnelly was invited last fall by the Center for Celtic Studies and Milwaukee Irish Fest to give the Chuck Ward Memorial Lecture, entitled "Climate change and the Irish landscape."

Donna Genzmer participated as a co-author of "Mississippi River" in the poster session at the annual North American Cartographic Information Society meeting in Colorado Springs.

Ryan Holifield will spend 2017 as one of two Water Policy Scholars at the UWM Center for Water Policy at the School of Freshwater Sciences, where he is conducting research on stakeholder participation in water governance.

Linda McCarthy was invited to serve on the senior advisory panel to review National Science Foundation Geography and Spatial Sciences (GSS) proposals.

Mark Schwartz presented public lectures on phenology and climate change at UW-Eau Claire in March and will present at UW-Fond du Lac in May. The USGS used his Spring Indices models for their recent article on the early arrival of spring this year, and trends toward very early spring onsets in National Parks. The "first leaf" maps based on the models were presented by Al Roker on the Today Show on March 2, 2017. Mark Schwartz's Spring Indices models were also mentioned in recent articles in the *Washington Post*, *Atlantic* magazine, and by the Associated Press:

- **"Just HOW EARLY is spring arriving in your neighborhood? Find out..."**, *U.S. Geological Survey*, February 22, 2017: <https://www.usgs.gov/news/just-how-early-spring-arriving-your-neighborhood-find-out-0>
- **"The U.S. Geological Survey hails an early spring — and ties it to climate change"**, *Washington Post*, February 24, 2017: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/02/24/the-u-s-geological-survey-hails-an-early-spring-and-ties-it-to-climate-change/?hpid=hp\\_hp-more-top-stories\\_earllyspring-805pm%3Ahomepage%2Fstory&utm\\_term=.ed9b4978079b](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/02/24/the-u-s-geological-survey-hails-an-early-spring-and-ties-it-to-climate-change/?hpid=hp_hp-more-top-stories_earllyspring-805pm%3Ahomepage%2Fstory&utm_term=.ed9b4978079b)
- **"Early Bird Special: Spring Pops up Super Early in Much of US"**, *U.S. News and World Report* (running AP story), February 28, 2017: <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/washington-dc/articles/2017-02-28/early-bird-special-spring-pops-up-super-early-in-much-of-us>
- **"What's Dangerous About an Early Spring"**, *The Atlantic*, March 1, 2017: <https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2017/03/how-bad-is-an-early-warm-spring-climate-change/517992/>





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