

Panther Geographer

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Tropical Field Research in Jamaica

The Cockpit Country of Jamaica is a remote forest reserve situated in the country's northern central area. It is centered on Trelawny Parish and covers approximately 600 km². The Cockpit Country derives its name from the "egg-carton" style of polygonal karst which dominates the landscape. Karst topography is a geologic formation of irregular limestone with special drainage characteristics of sinkholes, caves, and underground streams and drainage. In the Cockpit Country the steep-sided tree covered cone-like ridges and hills surround deeply indented concave floors, i.e., "sinks", known as dolines or cockpits. The name was given to the area by the British in the 18th century as it resembles arenas formerly used for cock fighting.



This Cockpit Country of Jamaica is the location of repeated field research by the UW Milwaukee Geography program. Since 2001 Professor and Department Chair **Mick Day**

has taken UWM students to Jamaica a number of times to carry out field research on karst geomorphology, land use and conservation in Jamaica. Day has also led students in fieldwork courses throughout the past 26 years in Belize, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago. And it is once again to Trelawny Parish, Jamaica that the spring semester 2007 Geography 654 Tropical Fieldwork Course returned, spending two weeks from April 1-15. Throughout the field research in Jamaica, Dr. Day

was accompanied by his former student, Professor **Sean Chenoweth**, '03 PhD, now teaching in the Department of Geosciences, University of Louisiana-Monroe.

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Tropical Field Research in Jamaica (cont'd.)

The group of five students comprised one master's student, **Brendan Vierk**, along with undergraduates **Mason Bindl**, **Laura Goetz**, **Andrea Hall** and **Sam Theis**. Day confirmed this was a good group of students who handled the conditions well. Moreover the small number made logistics much more manageable, and actually just the right size as everyone fit in one eight-seater van, although most often the group got around by walking.



L to R, Ray, S. Chenoweth, M. Day, S. Theis, A. Hall, L. Goetz, M. Bindl, B. Vierk, Pem-Pem, and dogs Wimpy and Bruno

The remote village of Windsor served as home base, and the field work conditions just a few miles away were good. As only 30 people inhabit Windsor, class member Mason Bindl's comment "even Jamaicans don't know where Windsor is" lends an appropriate image of the area. It is a Jamaica many people don't see. Accompanied by their 3 local guides, **Hippie**, **Pem-Pem** and **Ray**, the group would hike 2-3 miles to reach research areas. Bindl recalls the guides' use of their machetes to clean up the trails they traversed. The objectives of the research were to continue the previous studies



Large piece of talus

raised during past fieldwork. These questions focusing on the Cockpit Country deal with the distribution of talus (loose surface rock), the current state of land use and / or degradation, the potential for compatible land use and conservation, and the origin of the trail network. The broad academic objective of the course is for the students to gain experience in conducting geographic field research in international and tropical forest environments. This was met by the students' participation in the directed field research on these issues, in addition to compiling a comprehensive written research paper. A weekly seminar throughout the semester is also a component of this 3 credit course.

A main task of the field work was measuring the talus on the slopes. This was carried out in teams, within 3m x 3m marked off plots. All the stones and rocks within the area were counted and measured. It was also noted if the rocks were smooth or jagged.



Sam measures talus

Rocks which exceeded the 10cm minimum criteria were described in further detail. Dr. Chenoweth was responsible for recording this data.

Other research involved observing the human activities in and around the Cockpit Country. Day's last trip to the area was in 2005, and he notes "it hasn't changed much in the past few years." This however could change dramatically as the issue of bauxite mining continues to draw more attention. Since the 1960's the Cockpit Country has been partially set up as a forest preserve. The talk of establishing the area as a national park meets with reluctance due to the bauxite found there. Not only is bauxite Jamaica's leading natural resource,

2007 AAG Meeting

The 2007 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers (AAG) took place in San Francisco, CA from April 17-21. University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee was well represented in the conference where several thousand paper and poster presentations featuring the latest geographic research and scholarship, ranging across the full breadth of the discipline were shared. UWM participants and their presentations were as follows:

Christopher De Sousa

Assessing the Impact of Brownfields Redevelopment on Residential Property Values and Real Estate Conditions

Rina Ghose

Scalar Politics and Scaled Networks in Collaborative Urban Governance

Judith T. Kenny

The Moral Landscape of Madras' People's Park, 1860-1890: "Improving" India

Julie Lancelle

The Integration of Nature and Sprawl: A Look at Conservation Subdivisions in Southeastern Wisconsin

Wen Lin

Fieldwork: Making Sense of GIS Construction in a Non-Western World

Rama Mohapatra

Landscape Ecology and Cellular Automation: Investigating Patch Transition in Exurbia

Falguni Mukherjee

GIS and Spatial Technologies for Urban Governance

Jeremia Njeru

Urban and Peri-urban Deforestation, Neoliberal-inspired Economic Transformations and Political Liberalization: A Case of Nairobi City, Kenya

Lorne Platt

Milwaukee's "Gardens of the Poor"?: Park Ideology and Use in the "Workingman's City, 1880-1920"

Parama Roy

Civil Participation...A Means Towards Environmental Equitability or Perpetual Inequality?

Greg Rybarczyk

Bicycle Travel Demand Estimation Using Urban Morphological Indicators

Deanna Schmidt

The (Re)Production of 'White' Park Space, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Mark D. Schwartz

Applications of Spatially Concentrated Phenological Measurements

Rich Shaker

Landscape Ecology and Cellular Automation: Investigating Patch Transition in Exurbia

Laurel Smith

Embodying Neoliberalism: A Video-mediated Tale of Ethno-development in Southern Mexico

Brian Thayer

Developing a Community Information System (CIS) to Assist Neighborhood Revitalization Efforts: Case Study of Harambee Community Milwaukee, WI

Yehua Dennis Wei

Government Policies, Global Capital, and Regional Development in China

Geri Weinstein

Representations of Nature: Implications for Urban River Access and Use

Changshan Wu

Assessing the Impact of Brownfields Redevelopment on Residential Property Values and Real Estate Conditions

Sandra Zupan

Assessing Environmental Justice and A Community Empowerment Process: The Case of the 30th Street Industrial Corridor in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Schwartz Receives Two NSF Grants

Professor **Mark D. Schwartz** has received two National Science Foundation grants related to his continuing phenological research. Phenology is the study of periodic plant and animal life cycle events that are influenced by environmental changes, especially seasonal variations in temperature and precipitation driven by weather and climate. This far-reaching component of environmental science involves wide ranges of phenomena from the first openings of leaf and flower buds, to insect hatchings and the return of birds. Timings of phenological events are ideal indicators of the impact of local and global changes in weather and climate on the earth's biosphere.



One grant has been awarded to create a Research Coordination Network (RCN) in support of the developing USA National Phenology Network. This organization, the USA-NPN, involves a multi-tiered partnership among academic communities, federal agencies, and volunteers. This project is planned to run from March 2007 through February 2012 and has a budget of \$499,999 which is primarily intended to support travel and meeting costs for those researchers involved in development of the USA-NPN.

Funding provided over a five year period allows for extensive advancement of NPN and multiple opportunities to move forward phenological science. The grant will provide travel and participation opportunities for an annual meeting held Milwaukee as well as smaller workshops conducted around the country. Moreover, funding will also enable graduate student exchanges, allowing students to carry out research at the labs of various participant organizations.

The second grant has been awarded for the project *Bridging spatial scales using phenological measurements to improve understanding of springtime atmosphere-biosphere interactions*. The project has a budget of \$232,025, and will run from March 2007 through February 2010. The field research takes place in the woods of northern Wisconsin and has been developing for several years. The original research site will quadruple in size this summer to encompass two 600 m x 600 m areas. It is planned that within these spaces nearly 900 trees of various types will be marked for spring phenological observation. UWM students are closely involved with the research tasks in this project, collecting and analyzing the phenological data during each of the spring field campaigns. A prime concentration of this research involves connecting surface measures of phenology with environmental and satellite-derived measures during the onset of the growing season.

The detailed spatially concentrated phenological measurements and spatial analyses that proceed from this study will lay the foundation for future work that explicitly links phenological variations with plant physiological responses. The results will contribute to broader understanding of landscape variability, atmosphere-biosphere interactions, and the types of measurements that are necessary to accurately scale-up flux measurements to regional and continental areas.

New Geography Courses

This spring semester, **Anna Mansson McGinty**, Assistant Professor in Geography and Women's Studies, taught two new courses in Geography. GEOG: 130, Geography of Islam, is cross-listed with Comparative Study of Religion and GEOG 410: Gendered Geographies is an U/G class cross-listed with Women's Studies. Geography of Islam will be offered again in the fall of 2007, and Gendered Geographies will be offered in spring of 2008.

New GIS Club at UWM

The new GIS Club was officially recognized as a UWM student organization on October 31, 2006. The founding officers; **Brian Thayer**, **Greg Rybarczyk**, **Kyle Noll**, and **Rama Mohapatra**, worked diligently to gain approval from the Student Senate, and establish this new club's Constitution as well as its organizational goals. These goals and the club's purpose are as follows:

"The GIS club seeks to spread widespread awareness of Geographic Information System technology in order to prepare students for a successful professional career in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. The GIS Club will offer advice for students interested in UWM's GIS certificate program, provide networking opportunities for job-seekers, and serve to foster increased interdisciplinary communication and collaboration among university departments by stimulating interest in the technology."

The GIS Club at UWM immediately got started planning and assisting with activities for GIS Day (November 15), for which nine technical workshops took place at UWM. In addition to organizing volunteers to help with the workshops, the new club seized the opportunity to recruit student members and gain interest and support. Further networking opportunities took place at the recent Wisconsin Land Information Association conference. GIS Club representatives at this event received extremely positive feedback and their efforts were applauded for starting the new club. Moreover, the club claims the distinction as the first sanctioned student GIS organization in the state of Wisconsin.



The Club's present diverse membership of 31 well represents the Geography Department, in addition to five other University departments. The group meets once a month and the meetings are open to all UWM students; undergraduate and graduate, full and part-time, beginners and experts alike regardless of individual expertise.

Exciting club accomplishments already in action include the development of a website that will further a sense of community among the members as well as present an organized front to the rest of the world via the internet. Two listservs have also been posted online, and both are proving to be useful conduits for club communication. Whereas the member list, gis-club@uwm.edu facilitates communication among the members, gis-club-tech@uwm.edu provides a means for any Club member to seek out technical advice from member volunteers who are more experienced with GIS. These include many who have completed the GIS certificate program. Additionally both allow for members to participate in the Club if they are unable to attend the meetings. Other present activities include active participation in representing the GIS Club at UWM GIS Council meetings, thereby providing a student voice in terms of what general direction GIS is headed at UWM. The Club has an excellent relationship with the GIS Council and moreover, many professors have actively promoted and encouraged the club's efforts. Additional good news is that an office has been granted for the fall semester. This not only allows applying for technology grants, an office will afford the club a larger presence on campus as well.

Interested individuals may email the club at: gis-club@uwm.edu

New UWM Geography Faculty

Panther Geographer welcomes the two new faculty members who will be joining the department in the upcoming fall semester, and would like to acquaint you with their research.



Ryan Holifield's research grew out of interests he developed as an intern with the Center for Health, Environment, and Justice, and investigates environmental justice issues—especially in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund program. His master's thesis examined the interpretation and implementation of environmental justice policy among Superfund remedial project managers in EPA's southeastern region (Region 4). For his doctoral dissertation, he focused on a single "EJ site," the St. Regis Paper Company Site in Cass Lake, Minnesota. His dissertation asks how the Leech Lake Indian Reservation became visible and significant in the assessment of human health risk at the St. Regis site, not

only as a distinctive legal and political space of territorial jurisdiction and sovereignty, but also as a unique cultural space distinguished by the practice of treaty-protected traditional tribal lifeways. Ryan's next research project will investigate inequalities and differences in Superfund risk assessments conducted within EPA's Great Lakes region (Region 5).

Kristin Sziarto's research interests in social movement organizations and their role in urban politics stem from her own involvement in feminist, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and human rights activism. She has been interested in gender and the politics of work for years, and for her master's thesis studied the production of gender, sexuality and race in the tourism industry in north Georgia. From there she began looking into workplace issues in several other low-wage industries, including poultry processing and health care. Kristin found that low-wage workers had become a figure around which organized labor and some religious leaders could articulate a common agenda for economic justice. In her dissertation she focuses on one urban religion-labor alliance's political action in houses of worship, workplaces, and the urban policy arena. Her future research will examine the health care industry in the U.S., especially how it is shaping urban economic development, health care provision, and health care workers' lives in and beyond the workplace. Kristin is also designing a research project on local immigration ordinances and their relation to changes in federal enforcement of immigration policy. Both projects link her interests in urban politics with the politics of population, the latter of which is an ongoing teaching and research interest.



Geography Capstone Symposium

The Undergraduate Research Symposium provides the opportunity for the Geography Capstone Program students to present their research. Twenty-four students participated in the 2007 event on May 4th at the American Geographical Society Library. The students and their research topics were as follows:

Capstone Symposium (cont'd.)

Rebecca Andersen

Keeping Milwaukee Green: The Impact of Urban Parks

Justin Barbee

Inner City Redevelopment

Mason Bindl

Karst in SW Wisconsin

Chris Chagdes

Water Quality Supply and Management

Matthew Cullum

GIS in Marketing

Derrick Dahl

Downtown Redevelopment

Fredrick DeMaio

Erosion in North Carolina

Lance Dorn

Envisioning Place: A Critique of New Urbanism in Madison

Sarah Drasen

Sustainable Campus

Andrea Hall

Competing for a Better Quality of Life

Benjamin Kintopp

Working in Physical Geography

David Koehnlein

Middle Class Shrinkage in Waukesha County

Keri Krebs

Construction Waste

Eric Miller

Urban Growth Propaganda in St. Louis

Justin Miller

Milwaukee Transportation: Marquette Interchange

Dustin Ottman

Local Coral Stressors of Kaneohe Bay

Matthew Rothwell

Milwaukee 7 Transportation

Heidi Swan

Functioning of Wetland Mitigation Banks in Wisconsin

Jesse Sytsma

Invasive Plants & Wisconsin Biogeography

Andrew Tillman

Landmines Blow

David Urban

Brownfield Restoration in the Menomonee Valley

Matthew Utech

Brownfield Sustainability in a Small City Setting

Heidi Videkovich

Smart Urban Growth

Erin Westen

Recalling Galveston and Katrina: From Splendor to Rubble and Back Again



Congratulations to PhD students
Parama Roy and **Liang Liang**

Both students received a National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant.

See Graduate Student News to read about the many awards UWM Geography students have received.

Common Ground Conference



Metro Milwaukee Fair Housing Council's Lemuel Eaton presents on efforts to combat predatory lending.

Dr. Meredith Reitman's *Common Ground Conference: Regional Allies against Racism and Privilege in Greater Milwaukee* was held again this January at UW-Waukesha in partnership with the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee. This free event was attended by over 300 people and featured notable speakers in the academic, government and nonprofit worlds. Highlights included a heated debate between state legislators Grothman and Grisby on future of affirmative action in our state and a stirring lecture on regional solutions to inequality by nationally-renowned scholar Dr. Richard T. Ford.

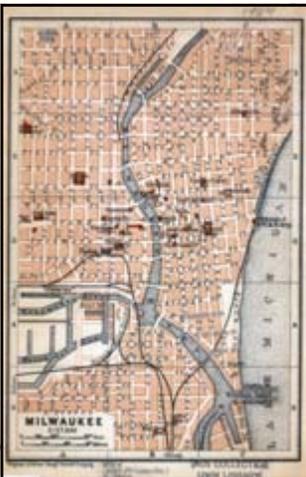


Conference sponsors Students for Peace sell homemade treats alongside UW-Waukesha professor Peggy Rozga.

More information is available at Interfaith's website (www.interfaithconference.org). If you haven't been yet, check us out in 2008!

New AGSL Digital Map Collection

The UWM Libraries has recently launched a new digital map collection of the American Geographical Society (AGS) Library. This collection of over 200 maps presents maps most frequently requested from the AGS Library holdings. The current selection ranges from early maps of Asia and Australia to historical maps of American cities, states, and national parks. Included as well are many rare, historical maps of Milwaukee and Wisconsin. On-going development of the collection will take place as further maps continue to be added. Online users of this digital collection can browse, pan, and zoom into the map files using the high resolution images (JPEG 2000). Each map record contains metadata which provides information regarding both the map contents and the image. The records were built with CONTENTdm digital media management software using Dublin Core metadata.



The following link provides access to the collection:

<http://www.uwm.edu/Libraries/digilib/maps/index.html>

New Grad Rep Jonathan Hanes

Congratulations are extended to **Jonathan Hanes**, the newly elected Graduate Representative. Jonathan, a master's student, joins PhD student **Liang Liang** in this two-person team which serves as the voice of the graduate students to the Geography Department. A main function of the graduate student representatives is to attend faculty department meetings, with the chief purpose of relaying pertinent information to both the faculty and back to the graduate students. If throughout the school year there



New Grad Rep Hanes (cont'd.)

would arise an issue which the graduate students collectively felt needed to be addressed, the grad. student reps. would advocate for this. Such was the case throughout the past few years with regard to establishing a computer lab in the Geography Department for the graduate students. Through the collaborative efforts of both faculty and determined students, the new geography computer lab became a reality during last semester (fall 2006). The graduate student representatives also help facilitate social activities and events; the *Welcome Back Picnic* in autumn is a well-known example.

The term of office for a geography graduate student representative is one year and one semester. The terms of office of the two individuals are staggered, thereby allowing the new representative to learn from the incumbent. Liang Liang is presently completing his first year of service, whereas Jonathan has been elected to replace **Lorne Platt**, who actually served two years in office. The Geography Department faculty joins the graduate students in officially extending their gratitude and appreciation to Lorne for the hard work, leadership, and dedication he performed during his extended term of office.

Geography Faculty News

Dr. Rina Ghose is currently conducting research on the role of neoliberalization in shaping collaborative governance and Public Participation GIS, and is presenting this research at the AAG conference. On other news, Professor Ghose has been invited to present her research at the e-seminar series hosted by the World Universities Network Global GISc Academy/



Royal Geographical Society with Institute of British Geographers' Quantitative Methods Research Group. Professor Ghose has also been invited by National Science Foundation (Human and Social Dynamics Priority Area) to be member of the panel that reviews research proposals.

Dr. Linda McCarthy's research interests are in comparative urban and regional economic development in the U.S.A., Europe, and East Asia, brownfield redevelopment, the automobile industry, and the globalization of the economy. She is currently working on research projects on brownfields in Milwaukee, urban change in China, and on the revisions to the 4th edition of *The Geography of the World Economy* with Paul Knox and John Agnew. Publications include: Knox, P. and L. McCarthy. 2005. *Urbanization: An Introduction to Urban Geography*, 2nd edition, Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall and "The Commerce Clause as a Constraint on Business Incentives for Firms: Roadblock or a Bump in the Road in the 'Race to the Bottom?'" forthcoming in *Tijdschrift voor Economische en Sociale Geografie*.

Dr. Laurel Smith is moving to Norman, OK at the end of the semester, having a baby in July, and starting a tenure-track position in University of Oklahoma's Dept of Geography & Honors College in August. She writes, "at long last: I've good news to share!" She would also like to note that she is awfully grateful for the kind support and generous assistance she encountered here at UWM.

Emeriti News



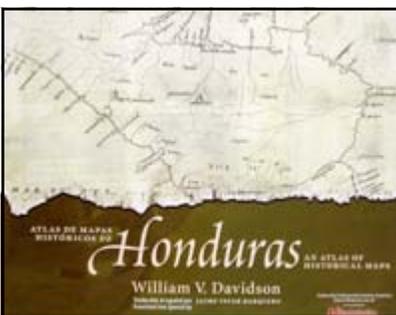
Tribute to Professor Emeritus Clinton R. Edwards

On March 28, 2007 a special tribute took place to Professor Emeritus **Clinton R. Edwards**. The event was held at the AGS Library which served as the stage for a dedication to Professor Edwards by first PhD student **William Davidson '72**. Dr. Davidson, Professor Emeritus of Geography at Louisiana State University-Baton Rouge, is the author of the recently published *Honduras, An Atlas of Historical Maps /Atlas de Mapas Históricos de Honduras*. On this occasion, Professor Davidson dedicated his new book in honor of his professor, Dr. Clint Edwards.

Also participating in the tribute and providing *former student remarks* was **David Miller**; PhD '82, MA '79, Distinguished Teaching Professor and Geography Department Chair, State University of New York College at Cortland. **William Woods**, PhD '86, originally scheduled to take part in the tribute as well, was unfortunately hospitalized at the time of the event and could not attend. Bill sent commemorative remarks through Bill Davidson. A colorful, short slide presentation brought to life occasions and adventures from graduate student days as Davidson and Miller shared memorable experiences of field research and classes with their mentor. Appropriately expressed during the tribute was the theme "will the circle be unbroken," portraying the wish of Edwards' protégés to be able to instill in their students Edwards' passion for the discipline of geography. Additional former students of Dr. Edwards also in attendance at the event were **Renae Prell-Mitchell**, '92 PhD, '88 MA and **Carol Rosen**, PhD '90, MA '84.



L to R, C. Rosen, R. Prell-Mitchell, W. Davidson, C. Edwards, N. Stewart, D. Miller, M. Day



The tribute was opened with words of welcome by **Ewa Barczyk**, UWM Director of Libraries. AGSL Curator **Chris Baruth** PhD '90, MA '79, shared words of welcome and brief remarks as well. Professor Emeritus **Norm Stewart** provided *colleague remarks*, recalling rewarding field work episodes and unique characters encountered in the Yucatan with Clint and his students. The presentation concluded with remarks by **Mick Day**, Department Chair. Day made specific reference to the field research courses offered at UWM, emphasizing as well that UWM's Geography program is one of the few remaining in the USA which still provides field research course work. In closing, Day capped off the tribute with the special announcement of the Edwards Endowment and Annual Award. This new award, designated for field research, will provide funding to UWM geography grad students.

Dr. Harold Rose

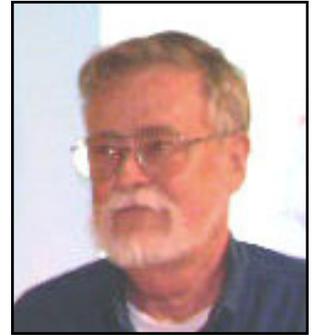
Harold Rose and his wife **Ann** are at home in Milwaukee for much of the year with occasional trips to his family and hers in Kansas.

(Continued on page 11)

Emeriti News (cont'd.)

Dr. Norm Stewart

When asked for an update on his life's present activities, **Norm Stewart** quite often replies "nothing has changed, life goes on, and I am still working on processing the archives of the AAG." Further delving however reveals that Professor Stewart's present focus in this voluminous, never ending task concerns the work of C. W. Thornthwaite and Russ Mather, which is fundamental to the history of American Climatology. Not only does Norm comprehend the importance of this work, affirming "I must get it right," Dr. Stewart confides as well; "it is a humbling feeling, because it is so very important." All of this historical archiving work brings forth another confession from Professor Stewart. "After all of this historical archiving work I have done, and the learning and experience I am gaining, I now feel qualified to teach my former course *The History of Geography*."



On a personal note, the Stewarts are planning to travel in early spring. They will be heading south via the "long way round" to Natchez, Mississippi, and they especially look forward to enjoying the camellias, magnolias and azaleas in bloom.

Recalling the good, comfortable feeling among the UWM Geography Department faculty members during his tenure, Professor Stewart hinted at looking forward to reading in *Panther Geographer* news updates on his former colleagues.

Graduate Student News



Star Barron

In February Star presented her research "An Introduction to Organic Farming in the European Union" at the Department Colloquium at the AGS Library. Star is looking forward to finishing her research papers on organic farming in the European Union and the U.S., and graduating in spring.

Lu Chen

Lu has been awarded a UWM Graduate School Fellowship.

Alan Halfen

Alan will be graduating this May, receiving a MS degree. He will continue to work on his research based in Wyoming. Alan confirms to *Panther Geographer*; "I have received several offers from other universities for my PhD; however, I have decided to continue my education at UW Milwaukee." Alan will continue to explore Aeolian landscapes and geomorphology in Wyoming as well as develop new research techniques. He will also broaden his research by joining projects from the University of Arizona and the University of Iowa, which are looking at more facets and interesting questions within the Aeolian landscape. Alan's other big news is his upcoming marriage at the end of May.

Graduate Student News (cont'd.)

James Handley

Jim has been awarded a Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies Graduate Student Travel Award to participate in a Spanish immersion program in Guatemala. This funding for language immersion will support his dissertation research on the role of Guatemalan fair trade coffee cooperatives in community and farmer empowerment.

Liang Liang

Liang has been awarded a National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant for his research "Intensive Phenological Monitoring of Wisconsin's Northern Mixed Forest, Integrating In-situ and Remote Sensing Observations."

Wen Lin

Wen received a UWM Dissertation Fellowship.

Jeremia Njeru

Jeremia is in the process of writing his doctoral dissertation "The Political Ecology of Urban Deforestation in Nairobi, Kenya," and hoping to finish this by the end of the summer. Enabled by the Compton Peace Fellowship, Jeremia spent the 2005-2006 school year in Nairobi doing dissertation field work. Also while in Kenya he carried out additional research based on his Master's thesis from five years ago, and wrote a paper which was recently published in Geoforum. It is titled, "The Urban Political Ecology of Plastic Bag Waste Problem in Nairobi, Kenya." Also keeping Jeremia very busy is his Teaching Assistantship for Geography 110, as well as submitting applications for a human geography teaching position at a North American university.

Chris Parisey

Chris is in the process of completing his final requirements for his MA degree. Earlier this semester he presented his research at the Department Colloquium at the AGS Library. He will soon be defending his thesis titled, "Housing and the 'Revitalization' of Downtown Milwaukee." Chris looks forward to graduating in May.

Rebecca Riti

In addition to finishing up coursework in both Geography and Library Science in her final semester at UWM, Becky successfully presented her Geography Internship in mid-March. This internship was carried out at the American Geographical Society Library and dealt with the National Highways Association's early twentieth century proposed national highway system and the numerous maps it produced. Along with creating a cartobibliography for this large map collection, many of the maps were scanned and will soon be available on-line as part of the AGS Library digital map collections.

Parama Roy

In addition to being alternate for the UWM Dissertation Fellowship, Parama received a National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant for her research "Urban Environmental Inequality and Community Participation: The Case of Walnut Way Neighborhood in Milwaukee."

Rich Shaker

Rich Shaker's poster "Linking Urban Design to Urban Heat Islands" won the "President's Choice Award" in the Map Gallery Competition & Poster Contest at the 2007 Wisconsin Land Information Association Annual Conference in Appleton.

(Continued on page 13)

Graduate Student News (cont'd.)

Deanna Schmidt

Deanna has once again been awarded the UWM Graduate School Advanced Opportunity Program (AOP) Fellowship.

Chris Schroeder

Chris has been named alternate for a UWM Advanced Opportunity Program (AOP) Fellowship.

Rong Yu

Rong is a second semester Master's student and continues to serve as the Grading TA. Recently, with the arrival of spring, Rong and her two phenology colleagues, Liang Liang and Jonathan Hanes, have started a general spring phenological observation at Downer Woods. As Rong's comments emphasize; "It's so interesting to see how the spring is coming, and it is also very healthy to walk around the woods."

Sandra Zupan

PhD student and TA Sandra Zupan has been awarded an Urban Geography Graduate Student Fellowship from the AAG's Urban Geography Specialty Group. Sandra also received a student travel award from the same specialty group to attend the 2007 AAG meeting in San Francisco. Sandra would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge kind help and support received from many faculty members as well as fellow students.

Undergraduate Student News

Dustin Ottman

GIS Track - Geography major Dustin Ottman has been accepted to the summer 2007 session of the NASA Ames Research Center (ARC) DEVELOP Program. This ten week GIS/Remote Sensing internship will take place at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Ames Research Center. Dustin is among the selected students to work on Earth Science projects that pertain directly to the western United States.

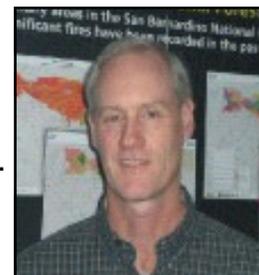
Alumni News

William V. Davidson, PhD '72

Dr. William Davidson, Professor Emeritus of Geography at Louisiana State University-Baton Rouge served as the speaker at the March meeting of the Map Society of Wisconsin. His presentation was titled "Fundación Uno and the Historical Atlases of Central America." The event was held at the AGS Library at UWM where maps and other materials on Central America were on display. These included a copy of Bill's new publication *Honduras: an Atlas of Historical Maps*, as well as several maps he had used in the atlas.

Charles Wells, MA '82

For the past 13 years Charlie has been employed by ESRI in Redlands, CA where he is Senior Project Manager, Local Government, Professional Services. His recent business travels have taken him to both China and Thailand.



Alumni News (cont'd.)

Lawrence M. Daniels, BA '85

Larry "Sky" Daniels, airline pilot – captain for Spirit Airlines, wrote to advise Panther Geographer that last June he was typed on the airbus as a captain. This type rating qualifies "Sky" to fly the A-319 and the A-321 series aircraft.

Renae Prell-Mitchell, PhD '92, MA '88

Renae was one of the attendees at the recent tribute to Professor Emeritus Clint Edwards, who was her major advisor for both her MA and PhD at UWM. Renae is executive director of The Prairie Enthusiasts, a Midwestern conservation organization that protects prairies and oak savannas in Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin. She and her husband also have an organic farm.



Joseph Rath, MA '00

Since graduating in 2000 Joe has worked in various positions throughout the upper Midwest. He has taught World Geography, served as an environmental contractor for Dakota County, MN, worked as a field/lab technician at UW-Madison, and also in Madison worked as an environmental tech with the Wisconsin DNR. Joe is currently employed as a GIS Technician with Cass Co., ND.

Barbara Kramer, BA '01

In May 2006 Barbara earned her Master's Degree in Library Science from UWM School of Information Studies. She is now employed as Technology Manager at Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation in Milwaukee.

Liana J. Escott, MA '02

Liana is employed as Community Development Administrator - City of La Crosse, Planning Department. Having recently participated in a week long conference in Chicago on federal programs and the environment, Liana informs Panther Geographer; "it is reassuring to know that people are starting to seriously acknowledge that we cannot continue to undertake activities, planning or otherwise, without actively considering the impacts on the environment."

David Barlow, BA '06

David reports that in January he moved to Boston in order to assume his new position as a GIS Technician for First Search Technology in Norwood, MA. Here his main duties are georeferencing aerial photographs and creating layouts for distribution. David graduated in December 2006 with a major in Geography in the GIS track.



Tropical Field Research in Jamaica (cont'd. from page 2)

and at the top of the country's export commodities, Jamaica ranks very high in world bauxite mine production. Recently permits have been issued to assess the bauxite prospects, although mining has not been approved. The students learned more about this issue during a lecture presentation at the Windsor Research Center, which is very instrumental in the conservation, protection and management of the Cockpit Country. A true appreciation of the pristine area, and its diversity with nature was expressed by the students. "We realize how very important bauxite is for Jamaica," Bindl remarked, "but once this area is mined, its pristine nature is gone."

Of course living in such a natural environment can cause unaccustomed challenges, and even though forewarned, the mosquito bites proved to be worse than anticipated. Small ticks were also prevalent, and the group soon became experts at getting them off their skin. Being aware of poten-

Tropical Field Research in Jamaica (cont'd.)

tial insect bites, and anticipating as well sore muscles, Day had included in the schedule a day at the beach, counting on the salt water healing properties of the Caribbean Sea. As the beach sojourn took place the day following the group's 12 mile hike, the day of relaxation was very much enjoyed. Another excursion was the visit to the local market place, where the neighborhood ambiance of the people, and the stall vendors selling fruits, vegetables and trinkets made a colorful scene. The sale of the morning's catch, some by spear fishing, added picturesque facets. The trip's overall unique and interesting experience was further rounded out spending free time talking

with the locals and especially the guides Ray, Pem-Pem and Hippie, who were farmers but also lived off the land by daily gathering of items such as bananas, wicker and wood for crafting.



As with all foreign travel, meals and lodging are a part of the adventure. The group was lodged at the "Last Resort" guesthouse in Windsor, where they found themselves surrounded by natural beauty. Conditions were rustic, and included bathing in a nearby stream and outhouse facilities. There was no telephone or e-mail access at the guesthouse, and mobile phones would work only if configured appropriately. This lack of US-customary services promoted Day's course stipulation: "hearing Jamaica is part of the experience." Day's banning of iPods and CD players from the students' equipment list also enabled a more sensory exposure to Jamaica. A local cook, **Marva**, had been hired to prepare meals for the group, thus providing them

a new and unique tasty culinary dimension. Provisions were bought daily by Marva, fresh each day at the market. The group enjoyed knowing that their fish meal had been caught locally that morning. Salt fish (cod) and ackee, a fruit grown on trees in the area brought a new taste experience to the students. Ackee, when ripe and cooked has a texture like scrambled eggs, however that both unripe and overripe ackee are poisonous was a warning given very quickly. Rice and peas with coconut, plantains and dumplings – affectionately called "yummy biscuits" by the group, soon became regular favorites. The varying degrees of hot pepper sauce put on almost everything completed the local flavor. Chicken feet soup was the one dish for which preference was divided, being a favorite for Day and Chenoweth, however not as much to the liking of the students. Eating such a natural diet and the extensive amount of walking during the two weeks brought a few of the group members home weighing a few pounds less.



Ackee fruit

It may only be picked after it has opened naturally

Students' reflections on the tropical fieldwork course concur that the trip was an absolutely amazing experience. Laura Goetz, one of the two female participants reflects; "one of the things I most enjoyed was that it encompassed both the physical aspects of geography as well as the cultural aspects. It was great to have the experience of meeting the local people and living in the rural environment. Most people only see the urban/touristy part of Jamaica, but we were able to experience it all." Graduate student Brendan Vierk recalls how time slowed down. "We had no internet, television

Tropical Field Research in Jamaica (cont'd.)

or radio. The way we told time was 'today is Tuesday.' Vierk also recounts; "when the group arrived it was full moon. But as the moon started to wane, within a few days the stars were very, very bright – you could see the whole galaxy, because there was no light pollution." And all the students agreed, "to be able to have the experience of rural Jamaica, to see how a portion of Jamaicans live on a day to day basis was very interesting. Interacting with Jamaicans was a rewarding experience as well."



Pem-Pem carries plantains home from the forest



Mason, Brendan and Andrea measuring talus

At a presentation a few days prior to the departure for the onsite fieldwork of Geography 654, Professor Mick Day spoke about the field research courses offered by UWM's Geography Program. Unfortunately this is a dwindling feature of many geography programs in the United States, but as Day proudly pointed out, it still is a valuable part of UWM's program. Day's passion for on-site field research is evident in his promotion of this practical work, in his recounting of stories that happen in the field, and his regard and concern for the participating students. May Mick's field research passion, shared with his students remain with them as they further their studies, pursue careers, and encounter new geographical and cultural exposure throughout their lives' experiences.

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