

# Panther Geographer

Spring/Summer 2009, Volume 5, Issue 2

<http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/Geography>

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### Additional Info

- **AAG Conference** in Las Vegas, NV (March 23-27, 2009)
- **Sustainable Cities Conference** will be held at UWM from April 17-18, 2009, featuring UWM Department of Geography's Harold Mayer Lecture Series guest, **Jennifer Wolch** from the University of Southern California

### Professor Judith Kenny

No doubt, you have heard that we "live in interesting times." As the financial crisis made daily news, we waited anxiously at the beginning of the semester to hear what the Governor's budget meant for UWM and our own department. As that planning goes forward, Geography is relatively comfortable – or, at least as comfortable as one might hope for when living "in interesting times." Our enrollments are strong and an expansion of our online course offerings provides us with funds to help offset the anticipated reductions.

While this signals a delay in our planned program expansion, UW-Milwaukee is clearly viewed as an integral part of the southeastern Wisconsin economy. The Governor's budget includes funds for the new School of Freshwater Sciences and the School of Public Health. Geographers are involved in the campus planning for these important additions as befitting a department focused on issues of the urban environment. How quickly we will get there is not clear but there will be progress.

In the meantime, certain aspects of the spring schedule continue. We are preparing for next year's incoming graduate students as recruitment/admissions are underway. And leaving – thus far, two of our doctoral students have accepted positions for next year. Wen Lin joins the Geography Department faculty at UW-LaCrosse in the fall and Deanna Schmidt will be on her way to the University of Houston-Clear Lake. Congratulations to them both!

Members of the large (32 member)

class of Geography majors – in Geog 600 – are preparing to present their semester research in a departmental colloquium on their way to graduation. Julie Anderson (MA '96), director of planning for Racine County, joined the Geog 600 class recently to talk to these seniors about her own progress through the UWM Geography program. While acknowledging that the job market would be challenging, she encouraged them to think of their education as an investment that no one could take away from them. –An investment that they may very well decide to add to.

As the instructor for the capstone course, I enjoyed hearing Julie's stories

and advice. It was particularly gratifying because she was my first graduate advisee

and I had watched her start her graduate career, her planning career at Racine County, and her family. She is an inspiring balancing act as her daughters (Lauren 15, Rachel 13), husband Steve, and Racine County are well aware.

We look forward to seeing her again for additional mentoring sessions. – We would appreciate hearing from you as well. Best wishes.



Julie Anderson with students from Geography 600

# A New Research Agenda

*Hard at work while on sabbatical, Professor Linda McCarthy returns to us with a new research agenda on the mind. She shares some of her experiences from China.*

During my 2007-08 sabbatical year, I spent part of the time doing research in Guangzhou, China, and attending a symposium in Hong Kong. Having done research on the automobile industry in the



Professor Linda McCarthy

United States, I was interested in establishing a research agenda for a study of the automobile industry in the Pearl River Delta. Working with **Professor Lachang Lu** from Guangzhou University, we undertook some preliminary fieldwork and interviews. Professor Lu's connections greatly facilitated getting interviews with government officials, planners, and economic development officers, as

well as a guided tour of a new Toyota plant. One of the things I needed to learn more about is how the political and economic context for automobile production in China is different from that in many other parts of the world, including the United States. In China, for example, the U.S., European, and Japanese automobile manufacturers are required to operate through joint ventures with a Chinese automaker. Following approval by the Chinese government, Toyota, for example, had entered into a joint venture with the Guangzhou Automobile Group in order to be able to manufacture cars in Guangzhou.

I timed the research trip to coincide with the International Symposium on Mega-City Regions: Innovations in Governance and Planning, which was held in Hong Kong in early August 2008. The University of Hong Kong's Centre of Urban Planning and Environmental Management invited a small number of international experts who included **Sir Peter Hall** from University College London and **Professor Saskia Sassen** from Columbia University to present papers. In addition to presenting a paper at a really excellent symposium, we all also enjoyed a fieldtrip into the

Pearl River Delta that was organized by the University of Hong Kong for the invitees. We visited many major new urban developments like the Guangzhou International Convention and Exhibition Center and had meetings with planners and economic development officials at the Urban Planning Bureaus in Shenzhen, Dongguan, and Guangzhou.

One of the most memorable experiences for me was sitting beside Peter Hall on the coach one day as he told me the story of how he came up with the idea for Enterprise Zones (EZs) three decades earlier. He had been invited to give a talk to the Royal Town Planning Institute and needed to come up with a topic to present. Having just returned from a trip to Hong Kong, he used his presentation to the planners to ponder the success of Hong Kong as a capitalist bastion in the otherwise centrally-planned Chinese economic context. He concluded that the less restrictive regulation of business in Hong Kong was an important factor underlying its prosperity. He suggested that the Hong Kong model of reduced taxes, regulations, and red tape might work to promote business enterprise and jobs in designated distressed zones within cities in the U.K. He didn't think much more about it until he got a call from **Michael Heseltine**, the U.K.'s Conservative government's environment secretary who asked to meet with him, and the rest, as they say, is history. I thought that it was fantastic that Peter Hall was so down to earth and honest about how the whole idea and implementation of EZs in the U.K. had come about!



Professor Linda McCarthy presenting at the International Symposium on Mega-City Regions: Innovations in Governance and Planning

# Seminal research presented on venereal biopower in November

By Chris Schroeder

Is sex a weapon? It was depicted as such during a World War II public service campaign in Seattle — and women were the enemy.

Dr. Lawrence Knopp, associate dean for The Graduate School and professor of geography at the University of Minnesota, Duluth campus, used advertising and media from World War II as part of his analysis of women depicted as “pathogen” during war-time Seattle.

Presented in November 2008, “Race, Gender, and Venereal Biopower in Wartime Seattle” drew on Michel Foucault, the influential French philosopher, to illustrate the biopower and self-regulation used to keep servicemen free of disease, namely STDs or the term at the time VD’s. The campaign was used by the military and the local health agency to stop the spread of STDs by depicting women as seductive agents and men as innocent dupes, with the dual goal of keeping men healthy for the war effort and reduce work load on the health agency.

Much of Knopp’s research focuses on the spatiality of sexuality, gender, and class. He has explored links in the U.S., U.K., and Australia between urban land, housing and labor markets, regional economic change, and the construction of place-based gay identities, communities, and political movements. He has also studied the cultural transformation and conflicts associated with these processes, such as the spatiality of media representations of gay men and the relationships between sexuality and nation-building projects.

Starting in the late 1980’s, Knopp was among a group of seminal researchers exploring sexuality and space in geography. Some early articles include 1987’s “Social Theory, Social Movements and Public Policy: Recent Accomplishments of the Gay and Lesbian Movements in Minneapolis, Minnesota” in the *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*. Other early works include “Social Consequences of Homosexuality” in the *Geographical: The Monthly Magazine of the Royal Geographical Society*; “Some Theoretical Implications of Gay In-

volvement in an Urban Land Market” in *Political Geography Quarterly*; and “Exploiting the Rent-Gap: The Theoretical Significance of Using Illegal Appraisal Schemes to Encourage Gentrification in New Orleans” in *Urban Geography*—all from 1990.

More recently, Knopp has written about the theoretical connections between feminist and queer geography as well as the theory, politics, and practice of mapping queer populations and cultures. His 2007 “On the Relationship Between Queer and Feminist Geographies” finds convergences and divergences in the two theoretical bodies. His body of work also provides examples of queering traditional geographic tools/concepts such as his work on queer diffusions and queering the map.



Professor Larry Knopp

Knopp is also involved in an ongoing mapping project in collaboration with Professor Michael Brown of the University of Washington and a community-based gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender history organization in Seattle. He also has a long-standing interest in U.S. electoral geography, which has led to separate collaborations with Professor Brown and University of Washington Professor Emeritus of Geography Richard Morrill.

Knopp’s presentations include “Issues in Community-Based Archival Research,” “How Stable Are Red and Blue America?,” and “Places or Polygons? Governmentality, Sexuality and the Census,” in *The Gay and Lesbian Atlas*.

Knopp received a bachelor’s of arts in 1983 from the University of Washington, a master’s of arts in 1986, and Ph.D. in 1989, both from the University of Iowa.

# Geography Faculty News

**Dr. Mick Day** has been appointed to a number of posts recently. He is now the Associate Editor for *Journal of Karst Development*, the Regional Vice-Chair for Central America and the Caribbean, World Council on Protected Areas (IUCN) Task Force on Caves and Karsts, the North American Representative for the Central American Institute of Karst & Speleological Studies, and reappointed to his third consecutive term on the Steering Committee for the International Geographical Union Karst Commission. Along with these achievements, his



recent publications include: 1) Day, M.J. Salvadoran lime kiln establishment in the Hummingbird karst, Belize, 1979-1988. *Caribbean Geography* 14(2), 133-144.; 2) Day, M.J. and Urich, P.B. Military campaigns in tropical karst: Bohol, the Philippines. In: *Military Geology and Geography: History and Technology*, eds. P. Nathanail, R. Bradshaw and R.J. Abraham, Land Quality Press, Nottingham, 145-158.; and 3) Urich, P.B. and Day, M.J. Potential impacts of sea-level rise on Belize. *Caribbean Geography* 14(2), 73-90.

**Dr. Woonsup Choi** is the lead author of an article entitled "Use of the North American Regional Re-analysis for hydrological modeling in Manitoba" published in *Canadian Water Resources Journal* in 2009. It was coauthored by S.J. Kim, P. Rasmussen, and A. Moore, all at the University of Manitoba. During the AAG meeting in Las Vegas, he co-organized three consecutive sessions on climate change and water resources with Professor Heejun Chang at Portland State University.



**Dr. Rina Ghose** has been working on a number of things recently as well. In 2008, she traveled to Park City, UT, to present her paper "Politics of Scale and Networks of Association in PPGIS" at the 5th International Conference on Geographic Information Science. More recently in 2009, she has been invited to present her research paper titled "Public Participation GIS in the Context of Inner-City Revitalization" at Newberry Library. Also, she presented "Power to the people? Politics of power in Public Participation GIS" at UC-Berkeley and closer to home, "Complexities in citizen participation and spatial knowledge production in inner-city neighborhoods of Milwaukee" as part of UW-Madison, Department of Geography's Yi-Fu Tuan Lecture Series. Her forthcoming articles include:



1) 2009 Mukherjee, F. and Ghose, R. "Complexities in GIS Spatial Knowledge Production in Dane County, Wisconsin." *Cartography and Geographic Information Science*, forthcoming; and 2) Ghose, R. "Investigating Middle Class Migration and Rural Gentrification in Western Montana," book chapter submitted to *Country Dreams and City Schemes: Utopian Visions of the Twentieth Century American West*, edited by Kathleen Brosnan and Amy Scott, University of New Mexico Press, accepted.

**Dr. Chris DeSousa** delivered the opening Special Presentation at the Western Canada Contaminated Sites Conference in Calgary, Alberta. Professors De Sousa and Wu, along with Dr. Lynne Westphal from the USDA Forest Service, have a paper forthcoming in *Economic Development Quarterly* entitled "Assessing the Effect of Publicly Supported Brownfield Redevelopment on Surrounding Property Values."



# Graduate Student News

## Nadia Bogue

This semester I have been working on continuing to narrow my research focus. Through my internship this summer with the Milwaukee Riverkeeper I will be researching environmental justice and the role non-profit organizations play in addressing these questions in Milwaukee. My internship will serve as my case study and I am excited to integrate my class knowledge into this opportunity. I look forward to working with the graduate students and faculty as the new graduate representative as well.

## Andrea Hall

I am a first year (second semester) graduate student in the Geography department. I have continued my Teaching Assistant appointment for Geography 120 (Our Physical Environment). I will conduct fieldwork for my Master's thesis for two weeks in April of 2009 in Puerto Rico. The research will focus on tourism and ecotourism within the karst landscape of Puerto Rico. Upon return, I will finish up my semester and begin to organize the data collected during fieldwork.



## Aswin Subanthore

I have published: Brenda Phillips, Dave Neal, Thomas Wikle, Aswin Subanthore and Shireen Hyrapiet. 2008. "Mass Fatality Management after the Indian Ocean Tsunami," *Disaster Prevention and Management: An International Journal*, Vol. 17, No. 5, pp. 681-691, along with two soon to be published encyclopedic entries titled "Indian Ocean" and "Tea Trade" in *Maritimea: The Illustrated Guide to the Maritime World* (Sydney, Australia: Millennium House), forthcoming 2009.

## Ashley Adair

Over summer 2008 I collected data from 315 campsites that checked into the Kettle Moraine State Forest - Southern Unit. Over the fall/winter I have been mapping and analyzing this data. My thesis will argue that education and awareness is the

first step in the prevention of invasive species movement and establishment. I will outline which zip codes, (in my study) needed more invasive species publication.

## Nick Gates

I am in my second semester in the Geography program, after earning my BA in German from Arizona State in 2004. My interests are in social justice and industrial redevelopment in Milwaukee. I hail from Waukesha, but like living in Riverwest much better. I cannot live without my Mac.



## Brendan Vierk Rivera

The stillness of the forest refreshes the soul, but the necessity of clearing the path with a machete enlivens the heart. I would feel this way while traversing the karst forests in Puerto Rico. During the winter interim period, I attempted to find NW and SE facing slopes as these are the least and most exposed to solar insulation and the desiccating effect of the trade winds. I hope to determine if this aspect



influences the growth of trees as these areas underwent the "spontaneous abandonment" by farmers who tried to make a living in this beautiful yet remote corner of Puerto Rico. I wish to thank the department for the travel funding provided by the MJR and CE grants which covered the majority of my expenses.

# Alumni News

## Derek Robinson, BA 2001

Currently I'm working for Pasco County Florida in the Stormwater Management Division as a GIS Analyst. I am responsible for the SDE Geodatabase that will house all of the collected data and all related aspects to the collection, such as routing, management of survey crews, and QA/QC of all the data. What also makes this collection effort unique is that we are not only getting Latitude and Longitude per structure (feature), but Elevation as well. This will give us the ability to start modeling our stormwater system accurately. It is quite a challenging position, as I have had to learn survey terminology and techniques, GPS collection, and water related GIS software like ArcHydro. As we move forward, the county plans on implementing a CMMS (Computerized Maintenance Management System) to help reorganize data, update, and track maintenance of all our assets from storm water, Utilities, and Public Works. I will be involved with that implementation as well. Finally, on the weekends you can find me floating in my pool enjoying a cold beverage.

## Mark Francek, PhD 1988

I am a professor of geography at Central Michigan University. My research and teaching interests are in earth science education and I am the recipient of several NSF CCLI – A&E grants. In 2001 I won the University Distinguished Teaching Award, in 2002, Michigan Professor of the Year, in 2007, the Presidents' Council for State Universities in Michigan's Distinguished Professor of the Year, and in 2008 the National Council for Geographic Education Distinguished Teaching Award.

See <http://www.news.cmich.edu/2008/11/cm-professors-take-top-nation/>

## Patrick Pittenger, BA 1994

I found my way to geography at UWM after deciding to pursue urban planning instead of social studies teaching, and it has worked out for the best. After getting my undergraduate degree from UWM in 1994, I earned an MS in Transportation Planning at Iowa State University in 1995. It was an interdisciplinary program, with course work in planning, engineering, and logistics.

Prof. Norm Stewart once told me that geographers had a tendency to be "jacks of all trades and masters of none," and I applied that to my graduate work and career (and I'm happy I've done so). I'm now the Transportation Manager for the consolidated City and County of Carson City. I work for the City's Public Works Department, but I get to run the local Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), be the transit director for the local transit system, and plan and build roads and bicycle/pedestrian facilities. The transportation field is a wonderful thing - it's very diverse and there's rarely a shortage of money and/or work.

## Robert Ramraj, PhD 1990

I completed my PhD in May under Dr. Mick Day's advisorship. My dissertation focused on the geomorphological/climatological/economic/environmental aspects of beach nourishment, dredging, and dredge disposal at Keewanee, WI in particular and the Great Lakes in general. After several one-year appointments at Millersville U and Kutztown U in PA, I eventually accepted a tenure-track position at Winston-Salem State U (WSSU) in NC. I often taught at UNC-Greensboro at both the graduate and undergraduate levels while at WSSU, and also at Elon U. WSSU has also awarded me the Bill Sheppard Teaching Excellence Award in 2002. Subsequently, WSSU's Social Sciences gave me an award for "dedication and excellent service to students, department and university." UWM's rigorous interdisciplinary training permitted me to successfully conduct research and effectively teach a wide range of courses.

I have researched and published on such topics as dredging, disposal, environmental perception, and Guyana in journals including *Journal of Coastal Research*, *Caribbean Geography* and *Guyana Journal*. Ten years of library and field work in Guyana culminated in 2003 in the publication of my book *Guyana: Population, Environments, Economic Activities*.

Now semi-retired, I currently teach World Regional and Cultural Geog. every semester at Forsyth Technical College, two miles from my house in Winston-Salem NC. My current interests include integrating folklore into scholarly works of nonfiction.

## Alumni News, (cont'd..)

### Peter Urich, BA 1987 MA 1990

I am currently the Managing Director of CLIMsystems Ltd, which provides marketing, training, and data provision services for the International Global Change Institute of the University of Waikato, and provides high quality models, training, and related services to assist individuals, communities, and societies to effectively and efficiently manage the impacts of, and adaptation to, climate change. I received my PhD in Human Geography from the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies at the Australian National University in Canberra. I also hold a diploma in agriculture from Guelph University in Canada. My work with rural economies and land managers across Asia and the Pacific and my publication record and affiliations across government and non government organizations and private industry have positioned me well to bring climate risk and

impact assessment tools and technologies to a diverse array of end users.

I have recently implemented the development and delivery of customized climate change risk assessment tools for the Governments of Tonga and Vanuatu in the South Pacific. I am the project leader for the Southeast Queensland Climate Change Mapping Project. I am also an Adjunct Associate Professor in the climate change program at the University of the Sunshine Coast located in Queensland, Australia.

## Poetry Corner



Shared from a selection of poems by  
**Gerald A. Ney, BS 1967:**

### A Late Afternoon in Door County #2 04/01/05 Bluffs, Harbors, Islands and Open Water

Little lances of light dancing on the  
waters,  
Adventure and the trailing Straw-  
berries  
In relief against a sun spackled sea,  
The slim green bar of Chambers at  
mid bay  
Marking the horizon's margin, and  
closer  
Inside Horseshoe's sheltering wings  
Two crews brave its careless curves  
To survive a poison ivy paradise;  
To Ephraim's face of New England  
scene  
Later returning under Eagle Bluff's  
abrupt

Stern stone face and the we-told-  
you-so  
Nodding masts in clustered crowds  
Anchored in the mini fjord of a har-  
bor.

### Wonowoc in Oconomo- woc? 07/19 & 09/30/05

Did you carve our names  
Mid November In Marked Tree  
On a fall blushing sweet gum  
Along the lazy looping river,

Or score a scrawled script  
Clear down the long length  
Of Crowley's straightedge Ridge  
With a nod to Fortune and Joyland?

Let's hurry on down Hurricane Creek  
Scorch the path to Panther Burn  
Shaking Shivers to catch some  
corn shuckins in Hushpuckens.

O riding a spotted Appaloosa  
Tarrying along the Tallapoosa  
Bending with the Black Warrior  
And canoeing the Coosa with you.

From Tamaqua to Tillamook,  
And Katahdin to Inglenook,  
Searchlight scanned to Daylight  
Pass;  
Risking frying by Furnace Creek;

Let's settle our scores  
On Rabbit Hash's shores  
Over a tumbler of Tennessee  
Or Bourbon County distilled  
Mash, mint and branch.

Would you really Wonowoc  
With me in Oconomowoc  
And drink from each other's well  
And be my Lac La Belle?

# Farewell Wen, and Good Luck!

I have accepted a tenure-track position in the Geography and Earth Science Department at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. I am very excited about this position because it provides a range of opportunities in teaching courses in GIS, environmental geography and method. I look forward very much to working with the faculty and students at UWL.

I have gained tremendous help and support from my advisor

and other faculty members in preparing for the job search and interview. In particular, I found a dry run of my job talk was very helpful. The dry run not only provided a 'real sense' of presenting my dissertation to a diverse audience, but also offered a wonderful opportunity to collect suggestions and comments on my presentation. I am grateful for the kind and generous support from the faculty and fellow students throughout my time at UWM. While

I look forward to moving to La Crosse, I will miss Milwaukee, including the hallway chatting (on everything – from papers to pets!) and the international potluck at the annual fall picnic.



Wen Lin



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## Please Let us Hear from You

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Post-UWM Degree(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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### PANTHER

### GEOGRAPHER

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