

Panther Geographer

Spring/Summer 2010, Volume 6, Issue 2

<http://www.geography.uwm.edu>

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3 As I am writing this letter in mid-March, we have already had a taste of spring with temperatures

Faculty News

4 in the mid-60s for much of the last

Graduate Student News

5 week in Milwaukee! Although I realize that we have at least several more weeks before spring really begins (for me this is when lilac leaf buds open, of course), I am both excited at the start of another field season, and sobered by the realization that one more academic year is drawing to a close (my 18th at UW-Milwaukee).

Alumni News

6 However, there are still a number of interesting events left in the remainder of this semester. We will welcome two distinguished geographers to campus in April: Prof. Barney Warf (University of Kansas) will give a Center for 21st Century Studies lecture on April 2nd (co-sponsored by the Geography Department), and Prof. Mei-Po Kwan (Ohio State University) will give the spring 2010 Harold and Florence Mayer lecture on April 30th. On May 7th, we will celebrate the ac-

Latest Geobaby/ Geographers on Ice

Remembering Clint Edwards

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Upcoming Events:

- Critical Geography Conference at UWM on November 5-7, 2010
- Department Graduation Ceremony at AGS Library on May 7, 2010
- Mei-Po Kwan will give the Spring 2010 Harold and Florence Mayer lecture on April 30th



complishments of our undergraduate majors and graduate students with a day full of student research presentations, award announcements, and graduate recognitions.

Lastly, if you have not yet visited our redesigned web page (launched last fall) please do so. The link is <http://www.geography.uwm.edu>. In particular, we are working to complete sections that outline the many areas of research work conducted by our faculty and graduate students (<http://www4.uwm.edu/letsci/geography/research/currentresearch.cfm>) and recent faculty and graduate student news (<http://www4.uwm.edu/letsci/geography/news/>). I am also particularly pleased to report that nine of our graduate students will be presenting papers at the Association of American Geographer's Annual meeting in Washington, DC, April 12th-18th.



Spring Semester in a Mexican “Ghost Town”

By Jonathan Burkham

I’m spending this semester conducting my doctoral fieldwork in the village of Atotonilco El Bajo in the state of Jalisco, Mexico. This pleasant lakeside pueblo of 2,250 people has been sending migrants to Milwaukee since the 1970s and there are now

well over 1,000 migrants from Atotonilco that live in Milwaukee. When I arrived here in early December for the patron saint festivals the place was



abuzz with packed plazas and streets growling with late-model pickup trucks, many baring Wisconsin license plates and blaring *norteño* balads. Every night was a *fiesta*: from 12-piece bands blasting *cumbia* rhythms in the plaza to huge *quinceñera* birthday parties boasting *mariachis*. The three week string of parties was capped by a deeply religious-then-pyrotechnic Christmas Eve and rounded off with a rodeo. This is clearly a very important time for migrant families, who come back to visit family and instill in their children the local culture of which they are so proud. It is also an important economic occasion for local residents as tens of thousands of US dollars are pumped into the local economy. However, by early January the town had thinned out and that’s when I began to see why local residents and neighboring villagers refer to Atotonilco as *el pueblo fantasma*, the ghost town.

Declining returns in agriculture combined with a rather stifling local business culture and ample economic opportunity in the US have created a culture of migration that has all but emptied Atotonilco of its working-age population. Eleven months out of the year the streets are nearly silent, the central plaza only perking up when the Wednesday street market comes to town. Yet, despite their physical absence, migrants make their presence felt by injecting over \$30,000 USD every week into the local economy

through family money transfers, known as remittances. So how do these prized greenbacks contribute to the economic development of Atotonilco? To be sure, they provide many families with the necessities of food, clothing and shelter, helping alleviate the poverty that afflicts so many rural communities in Latin America. Though, I’m wondering if this money is being used for more “productive” purposes – to start businesses, to create jobs, and to educate Atotonilco’s youth. What I’m finding is that entrepreneurial investment in Atotonilco is scarce because the pueblo represents a place of leisure for most migrants and local residents see remittances as more a symbol of economic opportunity abroad than a source of local productive investment. However, things are starting to change in Atotonilco. At least right now, the dream of easy US dollars is being revealed for the chimera that it is, and many locals are beginning to look 70km to the East to the encroaching metropolis of Guadalajara for their economic future. New highways have cut travel time to Guadalajara in half and Atotonilco’s more educated youth are increasingly working and studying in Guadalajara, while Guadalajarans are seeking an escape from the city by buying land in Atotonilco. What remains to be seen is whether Atotonilco’s Milwaukee-based migrants will use remittance investments to take part in the economic future of this rural (?), exurban (?), transnational (?) community.



An advertisement for a nationally renowned band that played at Atotonilco El Bajo’s patron saint festival at the expense of a prominent migrant family.

Matt Wilson Visits UWM

By Kathleen Williams

On February 19, Matt Wilson from Ball State University came to UWM to give a talk “Coding community: Geographic information technologies and mappings of the city street.” According to the abstract for the talk, “Coding Community is an inductive study of the relationships between technological innovation, urban neighborhood revitalization, government performance measurement, and quality-of-life indicators.” Dr. Wilson shared some of the research he completed while at the University of Washington. The focus of the talk was based on his experience with Sustainable Seattle.

According to Dr. Wilson, “Public and private spaces are being ‘linked up’ to expansive data networks through sophisticated mobile and wireless geographic information technologies.” The research he presented analyzed the mapping in ten neighborhoods within Seattle, Washington. The mapping was conducted with handheld devices taking regular inventory of a prescribed set of features within the urban landscape as part of the “Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods Initiative” (SUNI).

Participants in these street-level surveys collected geographic data about community “deficits” and “assets” while walking around their local neighborhoods. Dr. Wilson described “how residents marked graffiti, litter, vacant buildings, abandoned automobiles, and sidewalk obstructions, as well as, ‘friendly’ business districts, appropriate building facades, peopled sidewalks, and healthy vegetation.” The format for the program, including identified indicators, technology and software was adapted from a New York City foundation.

Dr. Wilson’s interests are situated within several larger theoretical frameworks – political, feminist, and urban geographies, in addition to science and technoculture studies. It is this confluence of interests that lead Dr. Wilson to examine the implications for both subjects and objects in the Seattle-based community mapping practice case. The findings form a significant discussion of the implications of the individualized ways spaces are defined and perceived, and then translated into digital form on the governance of urban spaces.

The day included a brown-bag lunch with Dr. Wilson. At lunch, he talked about one particular ap-

plication of his work at Ball State in Muncie, Indiana. Many of the graduate students present were intrigued by his application of cognitive mapping. In working with a group of about 30 undergraduate students in his urban geography course, he was able to glean how undergraduates perceive Muncie and how the perceptions shape how students negotiate a deindustrializing city.



You can find out more about this project and some of Matt Wilson’s other work at his two blogs. The first blog is “Life after GIS,” <http://lifeaftergis.blogspot.com>. The cognitive mapping entry can be found on December 28, 2009.

Dr. Wilson’s slides for his talk at UWM can be found in the February 20, 2010 entry. The other blog is called “Critical GIS,” <http://criticalgis.blogspot.com>. This blog is focused more on courses and readings.

Matt Wilson is the first in a newly-introduced initiative intended to connect UWM geographers with the work of other geographers in the West Lakes Region of the AAG. The West Lakes Region includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin.

The Friday and special lectures, including the Mayer Lecture, are organized by the Colloquium Committee.

The members of the Committee are Ryan Holifield, Glen Fredlund, Andrea Hall, Sandra Zupan, and Katie Williams.

Geography Faculty News

Dr. Rina Ghose is currently involved in a research project that investigates citizen participation in privatized collaborative planning in inner-city Milwaukee, funded by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Graduate School Research Committee Award. Her recent publications are as follows.



2010 Ghose, R.

"Investigating Middle Class Migration and Rural Gentrification in Western Montana", book chapter in *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, forthcoming.

2010 Lin, W. and Ghose, R. "Social Construction of GIS in China's Changing Urban Governance: The Case of Shenzhen", *Cartographica*, vol. 45, no. 2, forthcoming

2009 Mukherjee, F. and Ghose, R. Complexities in GIS Spatial Knowledge Production in Dane County, Wisconsin. *Cartography and Geographic Information Science*, vol. 36, no. 4, 299-314.

Dr. Woonsup Choi submitted a proposal in December 2009 to the National Science Foundation entitled "Effect of Urban Areas on Regional Climate Scenarios and Flood Risk," as part of the UWM Graduate



School Research Fellow 2009 in collaboration with Grant Writers' Seminars & Workshops, LLC. Three other geographers co-authored the proposal: Dr. Changshan Wu at UWM, Stefan Becker at UW-Oshkosh, and Heejun Chang at Portland State University. Dr. Choi also submitted another proposal to

the UWM Research Growth Initiative entitled "Climate scenarios for the Korean Peninsula via statistical downscaling of global climate model output." Both proposals are currently under review.

In November 2009, Dr. Choi presented a paper at

the 2009 AWRA Annual Water Resources Conference in Seattle, Washington, entitled "Climate change impacts on water resources in northwestern Ontario, Canada: Uncertainty from downscaling methods." It was co-authored by S.J. Kim, M. Lee, K. Koenig, P. Rasmussen and A. Moore, all of whom are or used to be at the University of Manitoba. He also presented a poster at the same conference entitled "Comparison of reanalysis datasets with observed meteorological data in the Canadian Prairies region" and co-authored by S.J. Kim and P. Rasmussen. In the same month, Dr. Choi participated as a discussant in the Korea Day Symposium "Korean Maps of the 19th Century: The Korean National Treasure *Dadongyeojido* at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee" which was held at the American Geographical Society Library and sponsored by School of Information Studies.

Dr. Choi was awarded \$2,653 for Faculty/Academic Staff Travel Awards to Develop/Implement Overseas Field Research Experiences for Undergraduates from the UWM Center for International Education. He will travel to Korea in late May using the fund to develop a research program about the effects of macro-scale urban development on flood risks.

Dr. Judith Kenny's chapter, "Surveying Milwaukee's Residential Landscapes: Prospects for Research" (w/ Thomas C. Hubka) recently appeared in the volume

Perspectives on Milwaukee's Past, edited by Margo Anderson and Victor Greene and published by University of Illinois Press. She also authored "Neighborhood Change," and "Urban Geography" for the *Encyclopedia of Human Geography* and the *Encyclopedia of Urban Studies*



respectively. Invited to present the University of Wisconsin, Osh Kosh Geography Department's Geiger Lecture, she acknowledged the contribution of her former masters student Chris Parisey and presented "Housing and the 'Revitalization' of Downtown Milwaukee."

Graduate Student News

Andrea Hall

I am in the final semester of my Master's degree program and will graduate this spring 2010. My thesis is related to tourism and ecotourism in the karst landscape of Puerto Rico. I am greatly looking forward to presenting my research at AAG in [April](#) in Washington D.C. and in Matanzas, Cuba in [August](#) at the 70th Annual Cuban Speleological Congress.



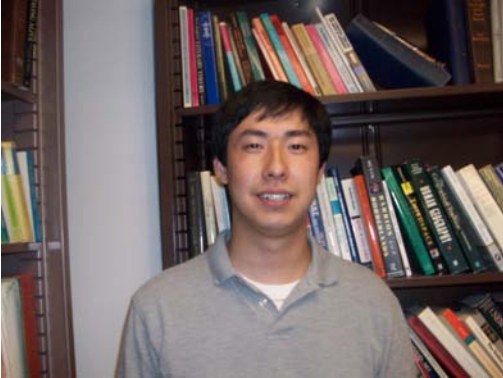
UWM. I will spend two months this summer in Ecuador studying beginning and intermediate Quichua language and culture through the Arizona State University Andes and Amazon Field School.

Otherwise, no news. I continue to survive, which is all that I really ask for in grad school.



Akarath Soukhaphon

I am currently in the midst of conducting fieldwork for my research on place-making and community building among the ethnic Lao in Milwaukee, WI, while continually discovering new and enlightening literature. In the department, I am working with the Undergraduate Program committee to help undergraduate students learn more about the geography major and become more involved in the department and its activities. This semester has definitely been filled with new experiences, ones that will certainly benefit my future pursuits.



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Ashley Adair

Since the Emerald Ash Borer was first discovered in SE Wisconsin in [August](#) 2008 (during my data collection period), it has been found hitching a ride to other areas around the state. I have finished analyzing the data I collected at Kettle Moraine State Forest – Southern Unit and I am completing writing my thesis this spring.

On a more personal note, Matt and I are very much enjoying married life and I have included a picture of us on our wedding day.



Nicholas Padilla

I was awarded a Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship through the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at

To find out more about our current graduate students and their interests, please visit the department website at: www.geography.uwm.edu

Alumni News

Margit Schatzman, BA 1982

I earned my Bachelor of Arts degree from UWM in 1982 with majors in German and Geography. My plans to move to Washington DC to become a cartographer with a federal agency were sidetracked when my new husband, Stephen Bleksley, decided to study at UWM. I was committed to staying in Milwaukee for the duration of Stephen's architecture education. At the end of the last recession of the early 1980s I felt lucky to find a research-related job at a small international education non-profit organization, called Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE). I was the seventh employee. ECE provides evaluations of foreign educational credentials for people wishing to study or work in the US, conducts research and provides training on applied comparative education for college and university admissions professionals in the US and internationally.

Over the years, I earned two more degrees at UWM (Master of Science in Cultural Foundations of Education and Master of Business Administration) and became the president of ECE. There are now 80 employees. I do interesting, meaningful work with a group of smart, creative and dedicated people. My geography education provided the perfect foundation for my work in international education. I travel quite a bit for work, which has allowed me to develop friendships with people in interesting parts of the world. From Belmopan to Bozeman, Nicosia to Nairobi, give me my malaria drugs and passport and I will go.

On the home front, Arthur was born in 1991, Eleanor in 1993 and Arwen in 1994. This Fall Arthur is attending UWM to carry on the family Panther tradition.

Bill "Bushman" Reynolds, MA 1980

A recent visit to the field station by Dr. Jaime Awe, Director of the Belize Department of Archeology, confirmed that Lower Dover is an important classic-era Mayan site and is much more extensive and sophisticated than had been previously recognized. The site *may* be the central component of a larger entity incorporating adjacent sites at Barton Ramie, Floral Park and Blackman Eddy, and *may* have rivaled nearby Cahal Pech (at present-day San

Ignacio) in its socio-political status. Compared to other Belize River Valley sites, many of the structures, which include "temples", sacbes (raised walkways) and chultuns (storage pits) are well preserved, and looting has not been extensive. Initial assessment of the site calls for a major reconsideration of the current prehistoric socio-political understanding of the Belize River Valley, and further archeological work is scheduled for 2010.

Wen Lin, PhD 2009

I completed my PhD from UWM in 2009 and started my job at UW-La Crosse last fall. The first year has been hectic, but full of excitement. For the first semester, I taught the Introduction to GIS class and two sections of the Conservation of Global Environments. This spring semester, I am teaching Advanced GIS in addition to Introduction to GIS and Conservation of Global Environments. It has been wonderful working with the students. It takes quite some time to adjust from the role of a graduate student to that of a professor (this perhaps is a life-long learning task). I am grateful for many helping hands and support from my colleagues (past and present!). I plan to visit China this summer to conduct some fieldwork for GIS and mapping practices by the non-governmental sector.



I really enjoy working and living here in La Crosse. The city lies where three rivers meet: the Mississippi River, the Black River, and the La Crosse River. It also has beautiful scenes of the bluffs and a unique urban marsh ecosystem. The marsh is not too far away from the campus, and a Sunday walk is always relaxing and fulfilling when the weather is cooperating. In the meantime, I miss Milwaukee and the geography department a lot!

Remembering Clint Edwards

By Professor Mark D. Schwartz

Clinton R. Edwards 1926-2009

We note with sadness the death of Emeritus Professor Clinton R. Edwards on November 24, 2009. Prof. Edwards received his doctoral degree from the University of California-Berkeley in 1962. He joined the Geography Department at UW-Milwaukee in 1966, and remained a part of the faculty for 35 years, retiring in 2001. Prof. Edwards was a highly distinguished cultural and historical geographer, who especially contributed to understanding the role of watercraft in the processes of cultural diffusion and discovery. His scholarship was an inspiration to his colleagues and numerous students who worked under his supervision, especially when conducting fieldwork. In recognition of Prof. Edwards' many contributions to the UW-Milwaukee Geography Department and the discipline of Geography, the Clinton Edwards Fund was established in 2007, and provides an award each year in support of fieldwork conducted by a Departmental graduate student as part of their thesis or dissertation research.

Geographers on Ice

By Andrea Hall

At the end of [February](#), some of the graduate students and faculty went ice skating at Red Arrow Park in downtown Milwaukee. It was a blast! Those who attended enjoyed spending time with other geographers outside of the classroom and department responsibilities. If you weren't able to make it to this event, there will be more (so don't you worry)! These types of events are a great way to get out of the 4th floor of Bolton and get to know your colleagues better.

Currently, Nick Padilla and I have been holding Friday gatherings for graduate students before Colloquium to discuss their research and ideas for the department. We are also planning a Spring picnic for the department on May 2nd at the UWM Fieldstation. It'll be a great way to celebrate the end to another great semester!

I would like to say **thank you** to Nadia Bogue for her job well done as Graduate Student Representative. Also, a big **welcome** to Nick Padilla, our newest Graduate Student Representative!



From left to right: Nick Gates, Nick Padilla, Andrea Hall, and Margaret Pettygrove

Latest Geo-baby!

Assistant Professor Anne Bond's daughter, Eliza Claire Bonds-Coffey was born on February 17th 2010. Congratulations to Anne and father, Brian Coffey on the newest addition to their family!



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