

# Panther Geographer

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## Inside this issue:

**New Faculty Members** 2

**Two Graduate Students Abroad** 3

**Faculty News** 4-5

**Reflections on the Harold and Florence Mayer Lecture Speaker** 5

**Graduate Student News** 6-7

**Alumni News** 8

## Upcoming Events:

- **Open House**, Fri-Sat, Oct. 28-29
- **Hyejin Yoon, UWM Dept of Geography**, "Cartoons go global; internal and external linkages of animated film production." Friday, Oct. 28, 3pm
- **GIS Day**, Wed-Fri, Nov. 16-18
- **GIS Symposium**, Nov. 17 featuring Prof. Mei-Po Kwan and Prof. John Wilson beginning at 1:30pm

## Letter from the Chair

Distinguished Professor Mark D. Schwartz

As October rolls in, southeastern Wisconsin is in the midst of a week of glorious autumn weather, with clear skies and mild temperatures. Geography faculty and graduate students had an opportunity to enjoy these pleasant outdoor conditions (as we brace for the inevitable onset of winter) at our departmental picnic, which was held on the afternoon of Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Organized by the graduate students with financial support from the faculty, this annual event has become a regular and much appreciated part of our departmental Fall semester calendar.



We start the new academic year with 14 members of the geography faculty. This was a net gain of one from last year, with the additions of new Assistant Professors Zengwang Xu and Hyejin Yoon (which I reported to you in the last newsletter), and the departure of Associate Professor Chris DeSousa. Chris has accepted appointment as Director of the Urban and Regional Planning Department at Ryerson University in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. We will miss Chris, but wish him success in his new position! We have also had seven new graduate students start their degree

programs with the Geography Department this year.

The Geography Department hosted Prof. Andrew Herod (Dept. of Geography, University of Georgia) for the Fall 2011 Harold and Florence Mayer Lecturer. Prof. Herod's talk was entitled "Labor union organizing strategies in early 21st century USA", and given in the AGS Library on the afternoon of Friday, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>. We will also be sponsoring a "Geography/GIS Symposium" on the afternoon of Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, with talks by two prominent geographic scholars: Distinguished Professor Mei-Po Kwan (The Ohio State University) and Professor John Wilson (University of Southern California), again in the AGL Library, with a reception to follow. The purpose of this symposium is to highlight Geography/GIS contributions to research in Freshwater Science and Public Health, and to inform/engage administrators and other faculty members across campus. UW-Milwaukee recently created new Schools in these two areas, and Geography has many ways to contribute to their growth and development!

So, the Geography Department is a healthy and vibrant research/learning community, and continues to plan ways to grow and expand. We appreciate your continued support, and hope that all of you will contact us and share what you have been doing.



## New Faculty Members join the Department

The UWM Geography Department welcomes two new faculty members: Dr. Heyjin Yoon and Dr. Zengwang Xu!

### By Heyjin Yoon

I finished my doctoral dissertation at the Ohio State University that examined the global production of the animation industry. Recent technological changes, particularly computer graphic imagery and information technology, have drawn a new geography of the animation industry under globalization. I found that each production cluster in different countries has shown differentiated internal and external linkages. After graduation, I was a fellow in the global studies program at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and I started to teach courses in the Geography Department.

My research interests are evolving towards differentiated strategies for regional economic development through co-operations among different agents. I am particularly interested in investigating how non-economic factors, such as cultural back-

ground, ethnic differences, norms and institutions, can influence an individual firm's location and behavior in various ways. I am also interested in transnational migration, especially high-skilled labor. My most recent research interest is entrepreneurial opportunities of Korea immigrants in Canada and government policy.



### By Zengwang Xu

Dr. Xu earned a PhD in Geography from Texas A&M University (2007). Before joining UWM, he was a postdoctoral research associate at Brown University, Providence, RI, where his primary projects were "Population vulnerability and resilience to hurricane wind damage in the US Gulf Coast 1950-2005" and "Interpolation of 2000 Census data to the redistricted 2010 Census tracts." Zengwang also served as an instructor/lecturer at Texas A&M, where he taught *Principles of Geographic Information Systems (GIS)* and *Thematic Cartography*. His research focuses on studying structures and dynamics of complex geospatially networked systems by integrating GIS, complex networks/systems theory, and spatial analysis and spatial

statistics. Zengwang's work in progress includes: "The epidemic diffusion pathway in the US intercity air transportation network; the spatial and temporal network analytics to online social networks; epidemic diffusion under changing human ecology."



## Two Graduate Students Perform Research Abroad

By Carrie Philpott

This past summer I had the incredible opportunity to learn Mixtec in Oaxaca, Mexico. Thanks to a Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS) awarded to me from the UWM Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, I spent six weeks in Oaxaca immersed in Mixtec language and culture studies. Mixtec, or *tu'un davi*, is the fourth largest indigenous language in Mexico and consists of an estimated 23 to 28 dialects. The people and its speakers span three Mexican states with a majority of the population in the Mixteca Alta and Baja regions of Oaxaca. While

challenging in speaking and writing, spending time in the Mixtec community not only allowed for practice but the opportunity to speak with Mixtecs about their



migration experiences in the U.S.

I also had the chance to learn about both Mixtec and Zapotec history from the many archeological sites in Oaxaca and from witnessing



various festivals that incorporated Mixtec history, Spanish traditions, and modern technology. Learning from the Mixtecos has enhanced my own research on Latina identity, citizenship, and activism here in Milwaukee. As I was particularly interested in how being labeled as “gente indígena” (indigenous people) in Mexico impacted the Mixtec worldview, identity, and activism, I related this to my own research in how Latinas feel about identities placed upon them in various spaces in Milwaukee. As I continue with my research, I wish to further investigate the Mixtec community and Mixtec activism in Oaxacalifornia in future work.

By Alarico Fernandes

Africa’s rural mud hut villages constitute a majority of the population who live in impoverished circumstances often in the most remote of locations with limited to non-existent basic infrastructure like potable water or electricity. But the Mbola cluster of villages in Tanzania and the Sauri cluster in Kenya are not your typical rural African villages as these are two of the 14 Millennium Village sites scattered across ten African nations. What you find instead in both locations is impressive health clinics, several wells with mechanized pumps, solar powered cement-brick schools and flourishing corn fields; often in stark contrast to neighboring villages.

Over the last six years the Millennium Villages Project (MVP) has emerged as a promising development intervention specifically designed towards achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals (UNMDGs). Proclaiming its efforts as revolutionary and holistic, the MVP self-describes its model as expert-driven-community-led development that is facili-

tated through public-private partnerships. While targeting a broad array of development strategies, the MVP specifically emphasizes the transfer of agrarian technologies from the developed world.

Over six weeks this past summer I conducted research in Tanzania and Kenya. Through interviews of MVP officials along with observing and conversing with the villagers, I intend to critically examine the MVP as a new paradigm of development discourse and practice. The MVP affords a unique opportunity to examine the underlying agendas and ideologies of UNMDGs. I question whether the MVP is indeed a new approach to development or simply a re-imagination of past efforts wrought with contradictions. I remain grateful for the Mary Jo Read travel grant and the department, especially my advisor who was instrumental to this research project.



# Geography Faculty News

## Dr. Woonsup Choi

Dr. Choi's publications include:

- 1) Choi, W., A.P.M. Keuser and S. Becker, "Air temperature variability in Illinois based on weather station records and North American Regional Reanalysis from 1979 to 2006," forthcoming in *Physical Geography*
- 2) Choi, W., A.P.M. Keuser and S. Becker, "Identification of mid-latitude regional and urban temperature variabilities based on regional reanalysis data," *Theoretical and Applied Climatology*, DOI: 10.1007/s00704-011-0466-0

He also presented at the following conferences:

- 1) Kim, S.J., W. Choi and P. Rasmussen, "Quality of Regional Reanalysis Data for Hydroclimatic Research in the Canadian Prairies," Canadian Association of Geographers Annual Meeting and Conference 2011: Calgary, Alberta, 1 Jun 2011
- 2) Galasinski, U., W. Choi and C. Hwang, "Spatial and Temporal Relationship between Groundwater Level and Urban Growth: Waukesha County, Wisconsin," 2011 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers: Seattle, Washington, 16 Apr 2011

I traveled to Korea during the summer with Tim Schierenbeck, a Geography major, with financial support from the Center for International Education and Office of Undergraduate Research. We collected water quality and weather information at three sites in north-eastern Seoul where stream restoration projects have been recently completed or are ongoing.



## Dr. Michael J. Day

Dr. Day's recent publications include:

- 1) Day, M.J. Protection of Karst Landscapes in the Developing World: Lessons from Central America, the Caribbean and Southeast Asia. In: *Karst Management*, ed. P. VanBeynen, Springer: 439-458.
- 2) Day, M.J., Halfen, A. and Chenoweth, M.S. Boundary Issues in Assessing Disturbance: The Cockpit Country, Jamaica. In: *Karst Management*, ed. P. VanBeynen, Springer: 399-414.
- 3) Hall, A.B. and Day, M.J. Water as a focus of

ecotourism in the karst of Puerto Rico. *Turismo e Paisajes Carsticos (Tourism and Karst Areas)* 4(1): 17-25.

- 4) Huang, W. and Day, M.J. A GIS and remote sensing based morphometric analysis of tower karst and cockpit karst in south Guizhou, China. *Proceedings Asian Trans-Disciplinary Karst Conference 2011*: 429-436.
- 5) Urich, P.B. and Day, M.J. Natural and anthropogenic hazards in the karst of Bohol, the Philippines. *Proceedings Asian Trans-Disciplinary Karst Conference 2011*: 313-321.



## Dr. Anna Mansson McGinty and Dr. Kristin Sziarto

Geography faculty Anna Mansson McGinty and Kristin Sziarto, together with their colleague Caroline Seymour-Jorn (Department of French, Italian and Comparative Literature), have received a RGI grant for their study, the *Muslim Milwaukee Project*. A collaborative project with different mosques and Islamic organizations, the *Muslim Milwaukee Project* seeks to learn more about a significant and growing Muslim population in the Greater Milwaukee Area. Since the U.S. Census is forbidden by law from asking questions about religious affiliation, there are only vague estimates with respect to the numbers of Muslims, nationally as well as locally. Through the *Muslim Milwaukee Project*, the collaborators aim to get a better grasp on numbers as well as the demographics of a quite diverse Muslim population. The study includes a household survey and an individual survey, which together will provide the community with information about people's ethnic, racial and national backgrounds, occupational and professional backgrounds, levels of education, community contributions, experiences of discrimination, and the role of religion in people's lives.



## Geography Faculty News (cont'd..) & Lecture Reflection

### Dr. Rina Ghose

Dr. Ghose's recent publications include:

- 1) Ghose, R. 2011. "Politics and power in the use of GIS for community decision making", book chapter in *Handbook of GIS and Society Research*, edited by Timothy Nyerges, Helen Couclelis, Robert McMaster, (SAGE publications), p.423-438.
- 2) Elwood, S. and Ghose, R. 2011. Reflection Essay: PPGIS in Community Development Planning. Book chapter in *Classics in Cartography: Reflections on Influential Articles from Cartographica*, edited by Martin Dodge (John Wiley & Sons, UK), p. 107-118.
- 3) 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 Nevada Press), p. 109-130.



### Dr. Anne Bonds

Dr. Anne Bonds presented her research, "Disinvestment and Misinvestment: White Privilege, Racialized Poverty, and Prison Recruitment" as an invited speaker in the Yi-Fu Tuan Lecture Series at the University of Wisconsin last February. She also co-presented a paper from her collaborative research project with Judith Kenny, "Partnership Housing"?: Habitat for Humanity, Affordable Housing, and the Relational Construction of the Shadow State," in a session that she co-organized (with Judith Kenny, James DeFilippis, Dan Trudeau, and Phil Ashton) entitled "The Political Economy of the Shadow State: Housing and Shelter" at the annual AAG conference in Seattle. Dr. Bonds also was a panelist in a session called "Seattle Geographies," which highlighted themes from a recently published book of the same title. Dr. Bonds has a co-authored chapter in *Seattle Geographies* (with Vicky Lawson, Lucy Jarosz, Lise Nelson, and Peter Nelson, and Jennifer Devine) entitled "Rural Restructuring". Dr. Bonds is currently working on several articles and anticipates the publication of her book chapter in an edited collection called *Beyond Walls and Cages* in the coming months.

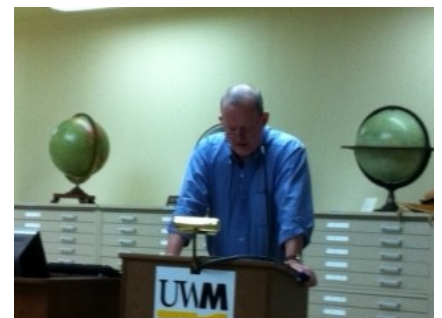
## Reflections on the Harold and Florence Mayer Lecture

### By Ryan Covington, Graduate Student

This fall the Department of Geography was fortunate enough to host Distinguished Research Professor Andy Herod from the University of Georgia to present this year's Harold and Florence Mayer Lecture. Professor Herod is one of the most prominent researchers in the field of labor geography, but he has also written widely on globalization, neoliberalism and the politics and theory of geographic scale. His lecture, "Labor union organizing strategies in early 21st century USA," comes at a particularly relevant time for the state of Wisconsin and public sector workers on university campuses.

In reconceptualizing the practices of labor union organizing in the United States, Professor Herod suggests that the "Fordist" model of labor union organizing rests on a series of geographic assumptions about the nature of work and the relationship between

workers and workplace that are no longer suited for an era defined by neoliberal globalization and the increasing geographic mobility of capital. Outlining nine models of labor union organizing strategies that have emerged as a response to these changing relations between worker and workplace that have proven, at least to some degree, successful in maintaining – if not yet strengthening – the power of organized labor, Professor Herod provided a renewed perspective on the changing nature of work, labor and organizing that perhaps, even gives us reasons to remain optimistic...



## Graduate Student News

### Gregg Culver

This summer I had the fantastic pleasure of spending about six weeks in Strasbourg, France. Strasbourg, located directly on the border to Germany, is generally considered to be the ‘bicycle capital’ of France. So, with my trusty *vélo* rental bike, I was able to both explore the beautiful medieval town and its less-than-beautiful suburbs, as well as the border town Kehl. In crossing borders and reflecting on my experience as a cyclist in Milwaukee, my thoughts often centered on the embodied experience of daily transportation practice. Strasbourg traffic was chaotic. ‘Jaywalking’ and cycling through red-lights – far from being viewed as deviant acts – felt as though they were expected, and essentially respected behaviors of pedestrians and cyclists. Yet despite the frequent disregard for traffic signals, the controlled chaos produced a system that seemed to function just fine (at least it did once I got a bit of a feel for the rhythms of the traffic). And though I rode a bike in Germany for years, nothing points out the peculiarities in its traffic culture as well as riding *into* Germany by bike. Crossing the border into Germany, the traffic feels immediately much more disciplined. All traffic participants, young and old, whether wearing a raincoat or a 2000 lb. steel cage, behave as though determined to uphold their ends of the traffic code – pedestrians and cyclists calmly wait for their respective green signals, while a sign hangs below the pedestrian light reminding adults to ‘stop on red and be a role model for children.’ Returning to Milwaukee, I had to remind myself to obey the rules of the game: “I am a moderately tolerated interloper on the street, not a fully respected traffic participant. I should behave with according caution.” If there is one lesson I learn from such explorations in traffic, it is that – though strikingly similar in all three places – official rules are one thing, but how you *ought* to behave is quite another.



### Brad Willems

I have received two scholarships over the summer. I received a scholarship from the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) and an additional scholarship from the Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA). It has been a great year in terms of being awarded a total of three scholarships.

I submitted a sustainability indicator assessment report to the City of Milwaukee’s Office of Sustainability which will help the department aim their efforts towards targeted areas of distress as well as help them allocate their resources towards these areas of need. The end result is expected to provide education and information to the sustainability office for assistance in grant writing that will bring funds to Milwaukee.

### Jonathan Burkham

I’m happy to be teaching a course on Latin American Geography this semester – finally, a chance to employ my ample anecdotes of life in Latin America to enliven a critical exploration of the region. In terms of research, my fieldwork in Mexico has yielded an article entitled, *The City Will Come to Us: Development Discourse and the New Rurality in Atotonilco El Bajo, Mexico*, which will be published in the *Journal of Latin American Geography* in March, 2012. As for satisfying other curiosities, I spent six weeks trekking through the Indian Himalayas this past summer. Immersed in the mountains, I got a firsthand lesson in the physical beauty and cultural diversity of far northern India; lessons that I look forward to sharing with students and colleagues alike.



### Wei Huang

I got myself dirty by doing some serious caving with Arthur N. Palmer, a renowned geologist and passionate caver, several rangers from Mammoth Cave National Park Service, and some students from Western Kentucky University. Mammoth Cave is by far the longest cave in the world with more than 190

## Graduate Student News (cont'd..)

miles. Amazingly, the exploration of the cave is not over yet, thus the record can be further extended in the future. The cave has 3 different levels, while you can still walk in the first level, the second and third layers are extremely narrow that only allow you to crawl in the mud and shallow pond like a snake. The most exciting part of caving was to squeeze myself into a super narrow, spiral-helix like passage to a lower cave level. People there are very funny and warm-hearted. The laughter never ended as we crawled down to the deeper layer of the cave and started a party in the dark by making some funny jokes and telling scary ghost stories. During the trip, I impressed them by showing them some karst photos from China and with my Chinese cooking skills. Caving is a lot of fun and it pushes you to the limit and challenges your courage.



### Katie Williams

Katie spent the summer studying Elementary Romanian at Indiana University's Summer Workshop in Slavic, Eastern European and Central Asian Languages (SWEESL) to prepare for fieldwork later this year. In the intensive workshop taught by a Romanian professor, a small group studied grammar and Romanian culture. Katie practices her language skills by watching movies, listening to Radio Guerrilla and reading Harry Potter (in Romanian) to her dog. Katie will tell you, "vorbesc un pic de română." (I speak a little bit of Romanian.)



### Margaret Pettygrove

I completed my MA thesis ("Spaces of Resistance: Urban Community Gardens in Milwaukee") in May

and spent the summer attempting to write articles based on this thesis. I have now begun working on my PhD, with the help of a Graduate School Fellowship, which allows me to enjoy a year free from teaching responsibilities.



### Katie Kirkland

This June, I spent the month traveling through several countries in Europe with my sister. After spending 5 days exploring the Amalfi Coast of Italy, we ventured off the beaten track and took a ferry from Naples down to the Aeolian Island of Salina, off the coast of Sicily. Salina is best known as the setting for the film "Il Postino" and is also recognized by UNESCO for its vulcanology. The small island boasted some of the most interesting physical and cultural geographical features out of any place we visited. During our week stay we took the opportunity to explore the island and its 7 small villages as well as hiking to the top of its highest peak on Monte Fossa delle Felci. We arrived the first weekend in June, before the height of the summer



tourism season, which allowed us to mingle easily with the locals and to take part in the island's most famous festival, La Sagra del Cappero (the Caper Festival). Salina's capers are regarded as some of the best in the world. During the festival the locals provide everyone with a feast of several caper dishes and wines. After dinner, dancing began with many of the locals participating in traditional Italian dances. It was a great opportunity for us to mingle with the locals and learn more about the unique culture on this island. The island had an incredibly warm and welcoming environment and just as we embraced them, they embraced us right back-inviting us to dinners and giving us tours of Salina and the surrounding islands. It was a truly amazing place and experience.

