

Panther Geographer

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Letter from the Chair

Distinguished Professor Mark D. Schwartz

As I write this note September is drawing to a close and we have been treated to a glorious week of autumn weather, with clear skies and daytime high temperatures in the mid-60s! Geography faculty and graduate students will be able to enjoy these pleasant outdoor conditions lasting for our annual fall departmental picnic, which will be held this coming Sunday afternoon, September 30th. It has been a busy month for me! During the second week of September the department hosted the Phenology 2012 conference at UW-Milwaukee's School of Continuing Education Conference Center, which is located in the Plankinton Building (Grand Avenue Mall, downtown Milwaukee). I was chair of the organizing committee and pleased to welcome over 140 of my professional colleagues who do phenological research (in case you don't remember this is my area of research and involves the study of plant and animal life cycle events in relation to weather and climate). Conference participants traveled from six continents (none from Antarctica) and forty percent of the total came from 20 foreign countries. With over 100 oral presentations, more than 30 posters, and a conference dinner held in the Pilot House at Discovery World (the top floor with a 360° view of Lake Michigan the coast, Art Museum and the rest of downtown Milwaukee), participants enjoyed an exciting scientific exchange, and left with an exceptionally positive view of the city and UW-



Milwaukee!

We start the new academic year with the addition of a visiting assistant professor, Alison Donnelly, who comes to Milwaukee from Dublin, Ireland. Alison does phenological research and will be working with me and my graduate students on projects during the upcoming academic year. Also, the Geography Department is hosting Prof. James McCarthy (School of Geography, Clark University) for the Fall 2012 Harold and Florence Mayer Lecturer. Prof. McCarthy's talk is entitled "Socializing urban environments? The case of Boston's Big Dig", and will be given in the Golda Meir Library's 4th floor Conference Center tomorrow afternoon Friday, Sept. 29th. Lastly, the Geography Department continues to plan ways to grow and expand, and is well positioned to contribute more to the campus and research communities in the areas of global climate change, geographic information science, and urban environments. We appreciate your continued support, and hope that all of you will contact us and share what you have been doing.

Upcoming Events:

- **West Lakes Speaker Dr. Keith Woodward of University of Wisconsin-Madison**, "The Face of the Earth." The lecture will be held at 2:30pm on Friday, November 16 in the AGS library.
- **GIS Day 2012**, GIS Day 2012 at UW-Milwaukee will be coming up on Wednesday, November 14 (9am-4pm). More details are available at <http://www4.uwm.edu/gis/gisday/>

Join us in congratulations to our 2012 PhDs:

- Jonathan Burkham
- Patti Day
- Rama Mohapatra

Please check out and "like" the Department of Geography's new Facebook page! We're eager to hear from alumni and to share your news with other UWM geographers and friends. You'll find us at <https://www.facebook.com/UWMilwaukeeGeography>.

Welcoming New Geographers and Friends...



This fall the department welcomes **Alison Donnelly** as Visiting Assistant Professor. Alison, who holds a PhD in Botany from Trinity College Dublin, is an environmental scientist conducting research on the impacts of climate change and phenology. Her wide-ranging experience includes working on projects to bridge the gap between bio-

physical scientists and urban planners and developing environmental indicators for use in Strategic Environmental Assessment. She is also teaching several classes for the department this year, and we are very happy to have her on board!

Over the past year, two additional geographers have affiliated with the department as adjunct faculty members. **Kirsten Beyer**, who holds a PhD in Geography and an MPH in Global Health from the University of Iowa, is an assistant professor in the Institute for Health and Society at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Her research focuses on human-environment interaction as it relates to public health – particularly women's environmental health—aiming to identify spatial patterns of disease and injury and to understand the complex human-environment processes that create them.



Frederick (Fritz) Nelson (PhD, University of Michigan) is a Professor of Geography at the University of Delaware, and a renowned specialist in permafrost and periglacial geomorphology (cold-climate, nonglacial landforms and processes), the geography of the polar regions, and the history of geography and polar exploration. He has conducted field research in Arctic and Subarctic Alaska, north-

western Canada, Siberia, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and he served as contributing author or lead author on all Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Assessment Reports since 1990. We look forward to deepening our relationships with both of these excellent scholars.



We are also excited to welcome **Marcy Bidney** as the new Curator of the American Geographical Society Library, as of October 2012. She succeeds Christopher Baruth, an alumnus of UWM's Geography PhD program, to whom we said farewell in 2011 when he retired after 31 years at the AGS Library, including 16 years as Curator. Bidney has master's degrees in both Geogra-

phy/Urban Studies (Temple University) and Library and Information Science (Drexel University), and her experience includes leadership positions at the Donald W. Hamer Maps Library at Pennsylvania State University and the Leslie F. Malpass Library at Western Illinois University.

The Department welcomed seven new graduate students to our program this fall: **Patience Farmer, Yui Hashimoto, Nick Schuelke, Yang Song, Jana Viel, Wei Xu, and Hong Zhuo**. Stay tuned

for future features about their research! The continuing graduate students carried on the tradition of rolling out the welcome mat with an excellent fall picnic, complete with excellent fall weather.



Photo by Katie Williams, Sept. 2012

Finally, we are happy to welcome two newborn children to the department community: **Hazel Olivia Bonds Coffey** was born to Professor Anne Bonds on June 24, 2012, and just a couple of weeks later, Professor Changshan Wu welcomed a daughter, **Emma Xinran Wu**, on July 5, 2012. Congratulations to both families!



Emma Xinran Wu



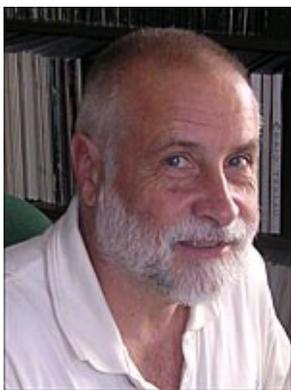
Hazel Olivia Bonds Coffey

Geography Faculty News



Anne Bonds has received a Graduate School Research Committee Award and a Center for Economic Development Summer Fellowship to support her research project, "Enduring Incarceration: Gender, Race, and Post-incarceration Geographies of Survival in Milwaukee, Wisconsin."

Woonsup Choi received a travel grant from AAG-NSF, along with a faculty travel award from the UWM Center for International Education, to support his travel to the 32nd International Geographical Union conference in Köln, Germany in August 2012. He presented a paper entitled "Extreme precipitation patterns in Wisconsin, USA during 1950-2006."



During April and October 2012 **Mick Day** has been investigating small, relatively undocumented karst areas in the English County of Shropshire. Based on this research, a paper titled "The Wenlock Edge, Shopshire: England's least-known karst?" has been submitted to the journal *Cave and Karst Science*. In September Mick presented "The D-

emise of the Cayo West Special Development Area, 1992-2012" at the UK-Belize Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland. Recent publications include the following:

Day, M. and Bindl, M. Quarrying in the karst of southwestern Wisconsin: History, significance and prospects. *The Wisconsin Geographer* 24: 68-83.

Day, M. and Reynolds, B. Five Blues Lake, Belize: A cautionary management tale. *The Journal of Cave and Karst Studies* 74(2): 213-220.

Rina Ghose is the 2012-2013 Senior Research Fellow at the UWM Center for Information Policy Research. As a Senior Research Fellow at CIPR, Dr. Ghose will collaborate with CIPR Director Dr. Michael Zimmer on research projects related to GIS and society, especially focused on the ethical and policy dimensions of "big data" within the GIS context. In addition, Prof. Ghose has been invited to give a lecture entitled "Power and politics in the use of GIS in community decision making" at the University of Amsterdam, Department of Geography, Planning and International Development Studies. During the trip she will give another talk entitled "Addressing urban deprivation and inequalities through Public Participation GIS" at the conference on "Information Flows in Urban Governance Networks in India."



Ryan Holifield received a Community-University Partnership Grant from UWM's Cultures and Communities Program, along with Ann Brummitt of the Milwaukee Greenway River Coalition. The grant will support a new service learning partnership between Geography 125 (Introduction to Environmental Geography) and the Greenway Coalition, in

which students will gather data using Global Positioning Systems (GPS) for maps of new trails along the Milwaukee River. The partnership will also receive support from UWM's Cartography and Geographic Information Science Center, led by Donna Genzmer.

Continued on p. 4...

Geography Faculty News (cont'd...)

Continued from p. 3...

In addition, during the summer, he presented two collaborative papers—based on research in progress with Tim Ehlinger (Biological Sciences), Manu Sobti (Architecture), and geography PhD students Ryan Covington and Katie Williams—at the Borderscapes political geography conference in Trieste, Italy. This research, investigating governance and conflict in river systems that cross political borders and boundaries, is supported by a Transdisciplinary Challenge Grant from the UWM Center for 21st Century Studies.

Linda McCarthy has been invited to affiliate for up to five years as an adjunct professor at University College Dublin, Ireland. As an adjunct professor, she will travel to UCD each year to offer lectures and seminars, advise graduate students, and engage in research activities with UCD faculty members.



Anna Mansson McGinty is working on three projects, all broadly related to Muslim identity and politics in Milwaukee. As a fellow for 21st Century Studies, she is excited to initiate a new project on Muslim youth and ethnographic practices in the 21st century. She is also, in collaboration with colleagues Kristin Sziarto and Caroline Seymour-Jorn (Department of French, Italian and Comparative Literature), working on a multi-

stage study, The Muslim Milwaukee Project, which aims to map the demographic characteristics of the Muslim community, and examine various aspects of Muslim geographies of the city. She has an article forthcoming in *Environment and Planning A* that discusses the public Muslim self-representation of “the mainstream Muslim” in the face of bigotry and Islamophobia, and one co-authored article with Kristin Sziarto and Caroline Seymour-Jorn forthcoming in *Social & Cultural Geography* that examines the knowledge production, positionalities, and ethics of collaborative research with community leaders.

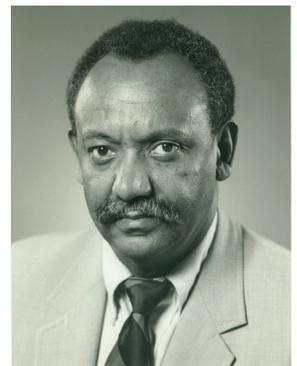
Mark Schwartz's research on phenology and global climate change has received press coverage in the *New York Times*, Wisconsin Public Radio, and other prominent

news sources, and he recently received a grant to support the project from the National Science Foundation. An article that he co-authored based on this research was recently published in the leading scientific journal *Nature*. Prof. Schwartz also organized the second international interdisciplinary conference on phenology—Phenology 2012—which took place in Milwaukee in September.



Zengwang Xu has received a Graduate School Research Committee Award to support his research project, “Identifying potential epidemic pathways in the US intercity air transportation network.” He also received the UCGIS/ESRI Junior Scholar Award for his paper “A social-spatial network study on academic networking in the AAG annual conferences 2005-2012” from the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science in the UCGIS symposium in Washington, DC in June 2012.

Finally, we are excited to share great news about one of our most distinguished emeritus professors, **Harold M. Rose**. In honor of Professor Rose's career, which included groundbreaking research on the geographies of race and racism, the Association of American Geographers has recently created the Harold M. Rose Award for Anti-Racism Research and Practice. According to the AAG, the new award “honors geographers who have a demonstrated record of the type of research and active contributions to society that have marked Harold Rose's career. The award will be given to those who have served to advance the discipline through their research, and who have also had an impact on anti-racist practice.”



Spring and Fall Mayer Lecture Series

During 2012, the Geography Department has been proud to host two distinguished guest geographers as part of the ongoing Harold and Florence Mayer Lecture Series.



In the spring, we hosted **Janice Monk**, Research Professor at the University of Arizona School of Geography and Development Research Social Scientist Emerita at the Southwest Institute for Research on Women.

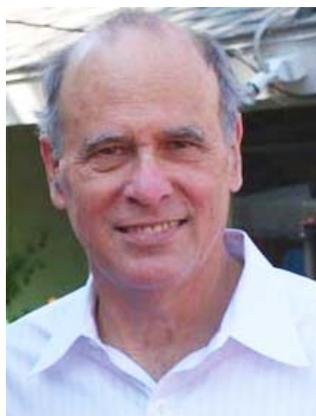
Recognition for Professor Monk's extraordinary

career has included Lifetime Achievement Honors from the Association of American Geographers, the Lauréat d'Honneur from the International Geographical Union, and many other prestigious awards. In her lecture, entitled "The Normal Way: Exploring the Career Paths of Early Women Geographers," Professor Monk educated us about the past of our own department, presenting research on women geographers who served as professors both in UWM's predecessor institutions—Wisconsin State Normal School, Wisconsin State Teachers College of Milwaukee, and Wisconsin State College of Milwaukee—and in the early years of the UWM geography department. Despite having to face tremendous obstacles and barriers to recognition, these women made outstanding and influential—but too often overlooked—contributions to geographic research and higher education pedagogy.

This fall, our Mayer lecturer was **James McCarthy**, Professor of Geography at Clark University and a leading geographic scholar on political ecology, political economy, environmental politics, policy, and governance, and social theory. Professor McCarthy's lecture, entitled "Socializing



urban environments? The case of Boston's Big Dig," presented his research on the Central Artery/Tunnel Project to upgrade transportation corridors in downtown Boston. McCarthy traced the history and prehistory of political controversy over the project, showing how environmentalists secured key concessions in their contests with real estate developers. Although this resulted in a "greener" project than might have been expected, it did not produce gains for other interests, such as advocates of affordable housing.



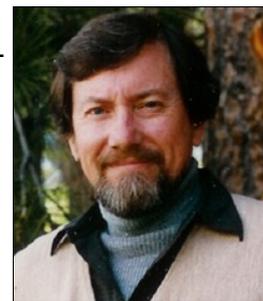
Both visits were enriching and enjoyable, and we look forward to spring 2013, when we will welcome **Richard Walker**, Professor of Geography at the University of California-Berkeley, as our next Mayer lecturer.

We will also sponsor a few upcoming guest speakers as part of our newer West

Lakes Speaker Series – stay tuned for details about these visits.

Alumni News (cont'd from p.8)

John G. (Jack) Weihaupt (PhD, '73), Emeritus Professor of Geography at the University of Colorado-Denver, announced the publication of his latest book: *Impossible Journey: The Story of the Victoria Land Traverse 1959-1960*, Antarctica, just published by the Geological Society of America (GSA).



Several PhD graduates began new faculty positions this fall, including **Jonathan Burkham** ('12, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater), **Wen Lin** ('09, University of Newcastle), **Rama Mohapatra** ('12, Minnesota State University-Mankato), and **Lorne Platt** ('08, Central Connecticut State University).

Graduate Student News

Kathryn Nauth

Over the past summer I had the exciting opportunity to intern with two different nonprofits engaged in environmental work in our local Milwaukee community. While working with Victory Garden Initiative (VGI), an organization focused on reconnecting people with their food source, I helped build gardens for Milwaukee residents during the VGI Garden Blitz Event that happens every May, participated in monthly gardening classes and community outreach, and took on the compilation of VGI's first annual report. VGI's focus on sustainable gardening methods, particularly on the philosophy of Permaculture in which food systems also provide habitat for native species, reveals the wider environmental scope of their work. Through my work with VGI I've gained valuable practical knowledge of nonprofit organization and management, while also gaining a more thorough understanding of healthy food systems.



In contrast to my experience with VGI, my work with River Revitalization Foundation (RRF) required more brute strength. RRF is an urban land trust focused on restoring healthy ecosystems along the western side of the Milwaukee River and maintaining quality recreational trails through this area, thus providing an urban population with the restorative benefits of a natural environment. While working with RRF I helped to supervise a group of summer employees in the removal of invasive species, such as the infamous garlic mustard and buckthorn, as well as the construction and maintenance of fences and trails. Much of our summer work was spent battling the effects of a severe drought on the newly planted prairie flowers and oaks along the trail.

Although these two organizations appear vastly different in their work and focus, what excites me about them is the way in which they frame their view of the environment as an ecological system that includes humans, not just as a source of negative disturbance, but also as an ecological actor whose disturbances can foster a healthier, more stable urban ecosystem. Their work subtly reincorporates humans into ecosystems, presenting their participants with practical methods and education in how to reconnect with the natural world around them. After working with them I see opportunities for biodiversity and beauty in every vacant lot, street easement, park, and front yard that I pass. Their efforts open residents' eyes to the natural world that exists right outside our front doors and the opportunity we have to recreate a world in which human needs do not trump those of all other creatures.

Margaret Pettygrove

After a brief break this summer to get married and travel the western coast of the US, I am back to work exploring urban food and agriculture. For the past year I have been participating in the Milwaukee Food Council, a citizen-based organization working to promote a just and sustainable local food system, and following the ongoing struggle of Milwaukee community gardens to secure water access. I have also begun exploring quantitative and qualitative approaches to mapping aspects of Milwaukee's food system, in order to interrogate concepts like 'healthy food access' and 'food desert' that are increasingly used to describe urban environments. As I develop my research, I hope to examine how citizen groups utilize mapping and spatial data in their efforts to evaluate and address problems related to hunger, nutrition, and urban land use. In October, I will visit UW-Madison to attend a mini-conference focused on urban agriculture. Meanwhile, I am harvesting the last tomatoes and eggplant from my plot at the Kilbourn Park Community Gardens!

Rong Yu

In Sep. 10th - 13th, Phenology 2012 Conference was held in downtown, Milwaukee. It was an interdisciplinary international event on phenology. Around 150 scientists from different countries came and shared their newest research in different subfields of phenology. It was an amazing meeting. I met lots of old friends as well as new friends, especially some iconic people in the field. I enjoyed the presentations and talks, especially the presentation from Dr. Xiaoyang Zhang talking about employing long term satellite data on global vegetation phenological research. I was also amazed by the gorgeous dinner

Graduate Student News (cont'd...)

on Tuesday night, the white fish dish accompanied by a Jazz band and a nice drink bar on the lakeside. It is the most informative and impressive meeting I've ever had. Also, two visiting scholars, Alison and Lingling, joined our Phenology Laboratory this semester. They are both very kind, intelligent, and interesting ladies. It is very nice to have them around, to talk with, and to work together. I look forward to spending more time with them.



Forging indigenous economies in Colombia

Nick Padilla

Colombia has the unfortunate designation as home to the Western hemisphere's oldest active conflict that dates back to the late 1940s. On Wednesday, August 8, 2012 Colombia's Interior Minister Fernando Carrillo arrived to the University of Cauca in Popayán, Colombia. Mr. Carrillo was in the city to re-open a dialogue with the indigenous peoples of the department concerning the presence of military personnel in their lands. Representatives from the United Nations High Council on Human Rights, the European Union, and Doctors Without Borders were also all present to facilitate the conversation between the groups. Colombia's indigenous population has borne the brunt of the country's decades old conflict with leftist guerrillas and right-wing paramilitary organizations. Indigenous peoples have been caught in the middle of the armed confrontations between the military and guerrillas.

With the financial support of the Department of Geography and Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, I spent a couple of weeks in Colombia in early August 2012 to begin my dissertation fieldwork on indigenous economies and development. I ask how indigenous organizations construct a politics through activism and practice

that supports their views of indigenous economic development. I went to Popayán to meet with CRIC members who are involved in the organization's efforts to foster indigenous economies that promote solidarity and reciprocity while respecting indigenous values of nature.

Colombia's indigenous movement emerged around Popayán in the early 1900s and it has flourished in the department since then. In the 1970s and Popayán's indigenous population organized against political, economic, and social marginalization and formed the Regional Indigenous Council of Cauca (or the CRIC) as a collectivity of indigenous communities who were united by their indigenous identities. The CRIC established four principles – unity, territory, culture, and autonomy – that guide the organization today.

I met with numerous representatives of the CRIC and other development agencies while in Colombia to understand how indigenous economic development happens. Indigenous activists were quick to point out that economic development is vital to their long-term survival. The CRIC maintains that economic development is inseparable from nature, and all economic development cannot cause environmental degradation. The prevailing indigenous worldview maintains that there is a spiritual connection between humans and nature – the water, air, and land – that is fundamental to the indigenous existence. Accordingly, indigenous development promotes crop diversity, food self-sufficiency, environmental protection, respects diverse cultural practices, rejects Western industrial agriculture, and fosters emotional connections to the idea of an indigenous economy.

I have taken a great deal from this brief trip. Most importantly, I have established more connections to help me carry out more research in the future. I met with people who are committed to a common indigenous cause, and, despite threats of physical violence against them, these people continue their activism in the hope of creating a multi-ethnic Colombia where indigenous people are citizens who are afforded the same rights as other Colombians.

Nelson, an indigenous man who works on indigenous economic development for the CRIC, presented the clearest assessment of the indigenous people in Colombia, "The CRIC has not been beloved by the Colombian state. We have been staunch defenders of nature, the indigenous culture, and territory." In this tradition, Nelson and the other CRIC members look toward the future.
