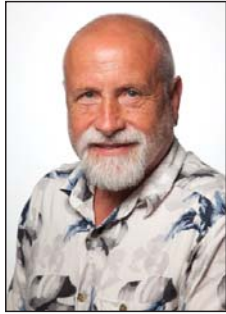


PANTHER GEOGRAPHY

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Welcome to Fall 2014 – new faces, new challenges, new opportunities, plus some of the same old stuff, including me, back for another year as department chair!

First, welcome to Rachel Friedl, our new Program Associate, now working with Niko Papakis (who is also a PhD student) to keep the department running smoothly and efficiently. Welcome also to our 14 new graduate students, including two from the Republic of Korea and one from the People's Republic of China. Former undergraduates George

Ananchev, Ashley Hoerz and Katie Roeder have entered the Masters program, along with Sue Borchardt and Doug Pibal, recruited from the GIS Certificate Program; Niko Papakis, Nick Schuelke, Jana Viel and Wei Xu are now in our PhD program.

Congratulations to other recent graduates who have also moved on to exciting new opportunities. Kate Sorensen is in Thailand, teaching as part of a Council on International Educational Exchange program, and in this newsletter you can learn more about the activities of other recent graduates. Among our most recent PhD students, Isaac Park is currently an Associate Instructor here in the department, and Gregg Culver is now working as a Research Associate at the Institute of Geography, in Heidelberg, Federal Republic of Germany.

The summer fieldwork course (GEOG 650) provided undergraduates with a typical range of opportunities and challenges, some of which are detailed in this newsletter. The faculty has not been idle this summer either! Woonsup Choi and Zengwang Xu helped launch the International Journal of Geospatial and Environmental Research, and Ryan Holifield and Kristin Sziarto presented at the IGU Conference in Krakow, Poland.

The Lectures Committee, currently chaired by Anne Bonds, has arranged a fascinating colloquium program for this semester, including a much-anticipated lecture in the Harold and Florence Mayer speaker series by Professor Dan Sui, of the Ohio State University. Next April, UWM will proudly host a pre-AAG IGU Gender & Geography Commission Conference titled “Gendered Rights to the City: Intersections of Identity & Power.” Department members Anne Bonds, Patti Day, Anna Mansson McGinty, Kristin Sziarto and Hyejin Yoon constitute the local organizing committee, and we are very grateful to them for their work.

Finally, on a personal note, 2014-15 will be my last year at UWM. I will be retiring next August after 38 years in the geography department. A long, strange trip it has been indeed, but one about which I have precious few regrets, and overwhelmingly happy memories. I will not forget the many friendships I have made within the department, and I thank everyone involved for their contributions to what has been an enormously rewarding career. “No man is an island,” and I feel very fortunate to have been part of the global family that is the UWM Department of Geography.

Professor Mick Day

Fall 2014: Volume 11, Issue 1

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November 19, 2014

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Chair: Professor Michael Day



College of Letters & Science

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT NEWS ITEMS



Although the late arrival of spring this year made fieldwork and service learning challenging, it wasn't impossible! **Alison Donnelly** and **Jana Viel** ('14, MS and current PhD student) ventured out onto the frozen Milwaukee River with a GPS unit to work with service learners in Geography 125. Donnelly's Geography 304 class later made it out to Downer Woods on the UWM campus to record spring phenology.



We share our congratulations to Ellie Kirkwood ('13, BA, Conservation and Environmental Science) and Vince Bushell from the River Revitalization Foundation, service learning partners with Geography 125, who were recognized as a Community Partner of the Year at the UWM Center for Community Based Learning Leadership and Research awards ceremony in May.



Rachel Friedl, our new University Services Program Associate (USPA), began with us on July 14th. Welcome aboard Rachel! Rachel is from a small town in west-central Wisconsin. She went to UW-Madison for a degree in Psychology with certificates in Gender & Women's Studies and LGBT Studies. She likes coffee and craft beer, and she enjoys long walks and road trips with friends. She previously worked at UW-Madison and UW-River Falls.



We were excited and honored to bring distinguished alumnus **William Woods** ('86 PhD), Professor Emeritus of Geography at the University of Kansas, as our second spring Harold and Florence Mayer lecturer in May. This fall, we have a stellar lineup of guest speakers for the weekly departmental colloquium. In September, we hosted our Harold and Florence Mayer lecturer Daniel Sui from the Department of Geography at Ohio State University. Other visitors from beyond UWM this fall include Leah Horowitz from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Hawai'i Pacific University, Jung Won Son from the Bartlett School of Planning at University of College London, and Sarah Moore from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



UWM Geography is proud and excited to host the upcoming conference, "**Gendered Rights to the City: Intersections of Identity and Power**," organized in association with the International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission on Gender and Geography and AAG's Geographic Perspectives on Women (GPOW). This event will take place in April 2015, before the annual Association of American Geographers (AAG) meeting in Chicago. If you want to participate, or if you are interested in donating funds to support the participation of underrepresented scholars, please contact igugndr@uwm.edu. We'll share more about this event in the next edition of the newsletter, but you can also learn more about it on the web at <http://uwm.edu/igu-gender2015/> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GenderedRightstotheCity2015>.



"Shut up and write", formally known as the Writing group, is an informal group of graduate students who gather in the department conference room to have an hour of silent work in solidarity with each other or to workshop and discuss work. We've peer edited and discussed a variety of writing, from abstracts and paper ideas to whole thesis chapters. We've also run through practice presentations for colloquium and conferences. We'd love to see more grad students bring abstracts, paper ideas, sections of papers, chapters of theses/dissertations, and presentations to our informal and supportive environment. It's not all work, however! Stay for lunch with us afterwards at noon.



Mark Schwartz sang the national anthem on Saturday September 13th at Miller Park for the "UWM @ Miller Park" night. Just after Professor Schwartz sang the national anthem, Mark Mone, the University's Interim Chancellor, threw out a ceremonial first pitch. If you weren't able to make it to the game, you can watch Distinguished Professor Schwartz's outstanding performance on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTTMnftxYTQ&feature=youtu.be>



STUDENT NEWS



We are very pleased to announce the birth of Lucy Liu, daughter of PhD student **Haijian Liu**! Lucy arrived on May 30th. Congratulations to Haijian and his family!

Despite chilly weather, we held our annual department picnic at Lake Park, welcoming these new graduate students:

Masters: George Ananchev (MA), Susan Borchardt (MS), Dezirae Brown (MA/MLIS), Ben Drew (MS), Ashley Hoerz (MA), and Katie Roeder (MA)

PhD: Minji Kim, Niko Papakis, Gainbi Park, Doug Pibal, Nick Schuelke, Jana Viel, and Wei Xu

Hear more from new PhD student Minji Kim below:

It was my enthusiasm to mature more academically and excel as a geographer that made me fly all the way across the Pacific Ocean from my country – South Korea – to the U.S to pursue my doctoral degree. This decision is one of the most challenging things that I have made in my life since studying abroad implies leaving the most familiar places and people to face an entire new environment. But again, I believed that to conduct my research in a more dynamic academic environment with people from all over the world will be unquestionably essential to achieve my dream, and that's why I am here now in spite of various concerns.

Now, time flies, and I can't believe that approximately two months have already passed since my arrival to Milwaukee, and gradually, all the 'newness' began to become a 'routine' to me. I am glad that Milwaukee – the place where I will spend several years – is a great city with a balance of economic/cultural/entertainment, peaceful environment with many relaxing parks and nestled by beautiful Lake Michigan. And while, and at the same time, it's a segregated city which illustrates that all these features of the city can be a diverse material that is valuable in deepening my knowledge in urban geography and my interests in urban tourism, and regional development.

Also, I am very happy to be a part of such a wonderful department at UWM. The department has a well-organized program and all the professors and students are warm and welcoming which greatly helped me to settle into the department and have a good start in the U.S. Even though I am faced with some difficulties from language and culture difference, I am still really enjoying my courses and teaching, and simultaneously, learning a lot from both of them. I am excited to experience all the challenges that are to come!



Please join us on social media! Our Facebook page has been up and running for a couple of years now (<https://www.facebook.com/UWMilwaukeeGeography>), and we just posted a brand new open group on LinkedIn called "UWM Geography" (<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/UWM-Geography-6772721>). We invite all alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends to connect with us, and use these as spaces for networking.

ALUMNI UPDATES



Erik Vanden Heuvel ('14, BA, Geography with Urban Planning Certificate)

As an undeclared freshman at UWM coming from an entirely suburban upbringing, I was inspired to learn about the city. Even though Milwaukee is a relatively small city it was a whole new world for me. After learning about UWM's Urban Planning program I was convinced it was the right career path for me. However, I discovered I'd have to go to graduate school to prepare myself for doing something that I considered would really be worthwhile and give me a chance to influence positive change. I chose to apply to the University of Amsterdam for a number of reasons: It's the highest rated social sciences school in continental Europe, a condensed one year program, entirely in English with a focus on international planning practices, and most importantly for me, an entirely new culture to experience and learn from.

The program is for a Master's in Urban & Regional Planning, and I'm so thankful for everyone in the Geography department at UWM (especially Professor Linda McCarthy and Anne Bonds) for preparing me for such a challenge. So far (three weeks in) the classes are similar to upper-level Geography courses at UWM in the sense that students are responsible to prepare themselves for in-class discussion and debates.

If I were to give some advice to undergraduate students thinking about studying abroad for graduate school I would say absolutely go for it! The experience will change your life. Apply early, look into scholarships IMMEDIATELY, learn about living in the city you want to study in, and don't give up. The process is difficult, but it's something you'll remember for the rest of your life – not to mention it'll help you get the job you want most.

Angela Jackson ('13, MS)

While in the thick of writing my Master's thesis in the fall of 2013, I saw a posting for what I would call my "dream job." The Conservation Fund was in search of a new Project Coordinator for their Greenseams program. Greenseams, in partnership with Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, aims to improve water quality while naturally managing water quantity in the Milwaukee-metro area. After many nerve-wracking phone calls and interviews, in September of 2013 I was able to call myself the newest employee of The Conservation Fund! I was beyond elated to be a part of an accredited, non-profit land trust that specializes in land acquisition to support environmental conservation and sustainable development.

ALUMNI NEWS IN BRIEF

Gregg Culver ('14, PhD) is now a Research Associate at the Institute of Geography in Heidelberg, Germany. http://www.geog.uni-heidelberg.de/hca/culver_en.html

Richard Shaker ('11, PhD) has joined the faculty of the Department of Geography & Environmental Studies at Ryerson University as an Assistant Professor. http://www.ryerson.ca/geography/faculty/shaker_r/

Sandra Zupan ('10, PhD) has begun a new position as Visiting Assistant Professor in Geography & Urban Studies at Temple University.



Since starting at The Conservation Fund, I have had many opportunities to apply the knowledge I gained at UWM when working on issues in and around Milwaukee. For me, the best way to learn a new job is to jump right in and fully immerse myself in the tasks at hand. Within weeks I was coordinating landowner contacts, conducting due diligence for conservation property acquisitions, attending wetland, water quality and wildlife conferences, applying for grant funding, and monitoring easements as part of the Greenseams program. I quickly learned the inner-workings of a non-profit organization and started to build relationships with other non-profit and governmental partners in the area. In addition to the fulfillment I get from knowing my work goes to strengthen local conservation efforts, there are many other reasons why working at The Conservation Fund is my “dream job”. This includes being able to bring my dog to monitor in the field, kayak Greenseams protected lakes, and build relationships with local landowners and other important local figures involved in conservation.



Aside from my daily duties for the Greenseams Milwaukee project, I was also asked to be part of an internal committee dedicated to research and land acquisition for Indiana, Northern Long-eared, and Gray bats. To be able to actively promote my passion for bat conservation and research, while furthering smarter, more sustainable water practices, I could not have asked for a more perfect career. I am beyond thankful for UWM’s Geography Department, the passionate group of conservationists in Milwaukee, and The Conservation Fund for the amazing opportunities I have been afforded.

Wei Xu ('14, MS)

I received my Master’s degree in Geography at UWM this May, upon finishing my thesis titled “Developing Population Grids with Demographic Traits: An Example of Milwaukee County, WI.” The objective of this research was to create a high spatial resolution population dataset with detailed characteristics on demography by combining spatial interpolation and statistical inference methods. The approach is capable of accommodating lower-scale population-related studies and activities such as environmental justice inquiries, infrastructure or business planning, disaster response, etc. I was honored to present my research findings at the AAG annual meeting earlier this year in sunny Tampa, Florida.



Now as I embark on the journey of pursuing my PhD in geography here, I decided to switch my focus from population distribution modelling to health geography since I have become increasingly interested in the relationship between space (place) and population health. One of the topics that intrigue me the most is the geographical variation in disease risk or incidence, and how the variation is changing over time. Currently, I am working on a project that investigates the spatial clusters of mortalities caused by Alzheimer’s disease in the U.S. over the last two decades.

Soon after getting my MS degree, I went back to China to spend the summer with families and friends. Besides the excitement of enjoying some authentic Chinese cuisine, I was able to travel all the way from my home city Wuhan, which is in the geographic center of the country, to Dali, one of the biggest resort cities in the Southwest, along the Yangtze River. It was thrilling to once again experience parts of the physical and cultural geographies of China, and I hope to carry out some health-related research there in the future.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium Internship Program 2014 Field Experiences

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During the summer, seven University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Department of Geography students participated in fieldwork internships around Southeastern Wisconsin. Nicholas Goetsch and Jeffrey Lobb worked with Jerry Ziegler, who manages seven nature preserves in Southeastern Wisconsin for The Nature Conservancy. The students completed a wide array of tasks, including pulling garlic mustard, restoring three-quarters of a mile of trail, and removing a beaver dam. Nicholas and Jeffrey also assisted Dr. Tim Gerber and his students from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse who have diligently worked on hand removal of Eurasian water-milfoil in Lulu Lake for the past five years.

Schlitz Audubon Land Manager, Marc White had a great time working with interns Ethan Hintz, Derek Miller and Katie O'Dell Roeder. The students used smart phone apps, Dropbox, Google Earth and ArcGIS to map small isolated infestations of garlic mustard and dame's rocket. The mapping was performed as a part of an early detection and rapid response protocol for the control of these invasive species. Ethan, Derek and Katie worked as a team to import project data into a geographic database and produce a map showing the size and location of isolated infestations of the plant populations.



Nicholas Goetsch (left) and Jeffery Lobb (center, rear) with UW- La Crosse students Megan Hess (right) and Alisha Saley (sitting) Dr. Gerber is in the water (right)



Jeffery Lobb and Nicholas Goetsch building a platform at a garage at The Nature Conservancy's Lulu Lake Preserve



Schlitz Audubon interns Ethan Hintz (black T-shirt), Derek Miller (blue shirt) and Katie O'Dell Roeder at work on their project

*This article originally appeared in the Fall 2014 newsletter of the Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium:
<http://sewisc.org/resources/newsletters/fall-2014-volume-4-number-3>*

To learn more about SWISC, visit <http://sewisc.org>. Executive Director Jill Hapner is a 2007 graduate of the PhD program in Geography.

FACULTY NEWS

Anne Bonds and a team of UWM collaborators received a Transdisciplinary Challenge Grant from UWM's Center for 21st Century Studies for the project "Transforming Justice: Rethinking the Politics of Security, Mass Incarceration, and Community Health." Her collaborators are Lorraine Halinka Malcoe (Public Health), Jenna Loyd (Public Health), Jenny Plevin (Film), and Robert S. Smith (History).

Woonsup Choi and **Zengwang Xu** announced that the first issue of *International Journal of Geospatial and Environmental Research* – for which they are editorial board members – has been published on the UWM Digital Commons.

Alison Donnelly gave the end-of-year presentation at the Celtic Studies award ceremony where she spoke about 'wildlife in a warmer Ireland.' She was also invited to join the Celtic Studies Advisory Board. Alison was the invited speaker at two teacher training workshops in Door County (WI) and Peoria (IL) as part of the American Chemical Society's initiative to develop ways of communicating climate change.

Rina Ghose has been invited by the National Science Foundation to be a senior panelist for its Geography and Spatial Science program this fall, and she was also invited to be a member of the conference committee for the 2015 AAG Annual Meeting in Chicago.

Ryan Holifield has been invited to be a keynote speaker at the June 2015 Global Environmental Justice Conference at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK.

Linda McCarthy has co-organized a workshop on vacant urban sites, held on October 21 at University College Dublin, Ireland. It included city government and community stakeholders as well as academics. She also made a guest research presentation at the University of Minnesota's Department of Geography, Environment and Society in September.

Mark Schwartz assumed the Presidency of the International Society of Biometeorology at the International Congress of Biometeorology, held in Cleveland, September 28 through October 1, and will serve a 3-year term.

Changshan Wu received a Faculty Research and Creative Activities Support Award from UWM to support research activities during 2014-2015.

Professor Sziarto receives Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award

We are very pleased to share the great news that Assistant Professor Kristin Sziarto received a UWM Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award this year!

This award goes annually to a very small number of UWM faculty members who "demonstrate excellence in undergraduate teaching," and Professor Sziarto received the honor in recognition of her outstanding teaching of *The World: Peoples and Regions*, *Geography of Population, Nations and Nationalities of the World*, and *Perspectives on Geography* (the senior capstone class).

She has also served as undergraduate assessment coordinator, carried out and published research in undergraduate geographic education, served in the McNair mentorship program and the UWM Common Read program, and played a leading role in updating our undergraduate curriculum. Since she began in the department in the fall of 2007, Professor Sziarto has developed a reputation among our undergraduate majors as an exceptionally stimulating, caring, and effective instructor.

Many congratulations to Professor Sziarto!





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