

PANTHER GEOGRAPHY

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Greetings from Bolton Hall, where we are eagerly awaiting the arrival of spring! Thanks to the long winter, many of us are looking forward to this year's Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting, which will take place in sunny Tampa. The department will be well represented at the conference – ten faculty and eleven graduate students will be participating – and we are pleased that once again we can support the travel of our students.

Despite (or maybe because of) the long winter, we have been keeping busy, and we are proud to share our congratulations to several faculty and students. Associate Professor Rina Ghose has been unanimously recommended to be promoted to Full Professor by the Social Science Executive Committee. Also, we're very pleased to announce that one of our graduate students, Margaret Pettygrove, has been awarded a UWM Distinguished Dissertation Fellowship for the 2014-2015 academic year, continuing our long string of success for this very competitive fellowship. In addition, we have just learned that Assistant Professor Anne Bonds and her collaborators have received a prestigious and highly competitive Transdisciplinary Challenge Grant from UWM's Center for 21st Century Studies.

This semester we are honored to welcome two distinguished guest speakers in our long-running and highly successful Harold and Florence Mayer Lecture series. The first was Professor Audrey Kobayashi of Queen's University, a former president of the Association of American Geographers and one of the discipline's most prominent scholars of race and racism. At Professor Kobayashi's lecture, we were privileged to have with us our own Distinguished Professor Emeritus Harold M. Rose, in whose honor the Association of American Geographers recently created an award for Anti-Racism Research and Practice. We are laying the groundwork for a new lecture series in honor of Distinguished Professor Rose, and we look forward to sharing news about this in upcoming newsletters.

We hope you enjoy this spring's issue, which features more details on the announcements above, as well as news from our faculty, current students, and several of our recent alumni. We'd love to share even more stories from alumni in future issues, and we encourage you to send us your news and photos – you'll find contact information to the right or submit them online at <https://www4.uwm.edu/lets/geo/letsci/geography/alumni/alumniform.cfm>

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Changshan Wu".

Professor Changshan Wu

Spring 2014: Volume 10, Issue 2

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Join us:

Friday, May 2, 2014
2:30 pm – AGS Library
Harold and Florence Mayer
Lecture: "PreEuropean Amazonian
Populations"
Presented by Bill Woods, University
of Kansas, Department of
Geography.

Friday, May 9, 2014
2:30 pm – AGS Library
Geography 600 Undergraduate
Research Symposium

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College of Letters & Science

GEOGRAPHY NEWS

UWM Geography Welcomes Audrey Kobayashi and Harold M. Rose

by Anne Bonds, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography

For our first spring 2014 Harold and Florence Mayer Lecture, we were honored not only to welcome distinguished geographer Audrey Kobayashi, but also to have present in our audience UWM Geography Professor Emeritus, Harold M. Rose. Dr. Rose's foundational work on racial discrimination and segregation challenged urban geographers to consider the ghetto as produced through both spatial and social processes. His scholarship established that examining segregation was not just about mapping the distribution of racial groups across the urban landscape, but also about understanding the social processes and attitudes about race that produced those patterns. Far ahead of what we, as a discipline, know today about the mass incarceration of African Americans and the state abandonment that has further entrenched racial and class segregation in cities, Professor Rose urged geographers to address the urgent social problems producing and reinforcing racialized urban geographies of despair and violence. The legacy of his work is paramount, and we were honored to announce the establishment of a new Harold M. Rose Lecture series that will emphasize topics of race and urban social justice, as a means to pay tribute to Professor Rose's legacy to UWM Geography, to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and to the discipline of geography.



There are wonderful connections between Dr. Rose and our distinguished guest speaker, Audrey Kobayashi, whose scholarship has, in so many ways, contributed to understandings about race, racism, and anti-racism in geography. Professor Kobayashi joined us from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. She has co-edited important books on peace and armed conflict, immigrants in North American cities, as well as publishing extensively within – and serving as editor and on the editorial boards of – the premier journals within human geography. Professor Kobayashi's work has not only generated new theoretical approaches to race, anti-racist research, and pedagogy; it has also problematized the whiteness of the discipline and underscored the fundamental difference that race makes within the geographic enterprise. As someone working in the areas of critical geographies of race and feminist geography, I know I am just one of many, many scholars who can attest to the influence of Professor Kobayashi's work on my own research and activism within geography. It was a true honor to have present with us two pioneering past-presidents of the AAG who have done so much to help us understand and challenge racism within and beyond the discipline.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Julie Kebisek BA '10, was accepted into the Environmental Public Health graduate school at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities.

Brian F. Biernat, BA '87, has been happily working as the Director of Economic Development, Inspections and Zoning, for the City of Cudahy.

Doctoral student **Margaret Pettygrove** received a UWM Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship.



Tropical Fieldwork team (GEOG 654): Belize 2014

A Tropical Fieldwork team (GEOG 654) was in Belize from February 15 through March 4, studying (eco)tourism in the karst of the western Cayo District. Based again at the Lower Dover Research Station in Unitedville, the team (Jake Bachman, Ellen Blaser, Mick Day, Courtney Gauert, Ed Glavin, Ashley Hoerz, Kate Sorensen and Tyler Willey) built on prior research by Liana Escott (MA, 2002) and the 2012 team in the former Cayo West Special Development Area, the establishment of which was prompted by the growth of the tourism business. The research also built on the karst tourism work of Joe Rath (MA, 2000) and particularly on the dissertation of Jeff Allender (PhD, 1992), who provided important benchmark data during the early establishment of the local tourism sector.

The team documented the current state of the local ecotourism industry, based on San Ignacio/Santa Elena, visited principal tourist locations and surveyed numerous operators and participants. The information is currently being analyzed with a report due by the end of the spring semester. As always, Belize's landscape and people provided a wonderful venue for the field research, and the Lower Dover Research Station facilitated the logistics.



UWM geographers host research collaborators from University of Illinois

In December, faculty member Ryan Holifield and PhD student Katie Williams hosted researchers from the University of Illinois (Bethany Cutts and Andrew Greenlee) who recently began a study of community involvement in sediment removal projects from contaminated rivers. They were joined by representatives from Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, UW-Extension, and Milwaukee County Parks. Landscape architect Kevin Haley led us on a rather chilly but highly informative tour of a recent restoration project at Milwaukee's Lincoln Park. Ryan and Katie are collaborating with Caitie McCoy of Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant on research on stakeholder involvement at Great Lakes Areas of Concern.



ALUMNI UPDATES

Patrick Gaertner, BA '84, is currently a principal consultant with the Lucidity Consulting Group, Dallas, but lives in Melbourne Beach, Florida. He provides consulting and implementation services for utility companies implementing Oracle WAM (Work and Asset Management) and Oracle MWM (Mobile Workforce Management) products.

After graduation, Pat worked briefly with Mark Hurd Aerial Surveys in Minneapolis, scribing digital terrain maps for the Department of Defense. After about a year, he moved back to Milwaukee and began his career working within the GIS industry and utility companies. For the next 13 years, Pat worked primarily as Consultant and Project Manager implementing Intergraph FRAMME projects.

In 1998, Pat moved away from working with the primary mapping applications to work with OMS (Outage Management Systems) and Mobile Workforce applications. With the advance in digital technologies, computerized customer records and streamlining work applications for field crews, it was an easy move into implementing new solutions for utility operations. Pat's work has been dedicated to this field since the late 1990's.

In 2008, Pat moved from Wisconsin to Florida to work with GE as an OMS/DMS Commercial Manager to work with GE's Smallworld PowerOn application and its move to Smart Grid technology. After two plus years with GE, Pat left and has since gone back to working with Oracle products and applications.

When he isn't on a plane traveling to customer locations, Pat enjoys personal traveling, promoting and supporting local eco-tourism activities, surfing, and an occasional round of golf. His work has taken him to Nepal, Australia, Brazil, Scotland, Costa Rica, Jamaica and various other countries. Over the next few years, he plans to increase his activities in supporting eco-tourism activities locally and internationally in the Americas.

Jonathan Burkham, PhD '12: I am pleased to say that I have made a fairly seamless transition to an Assistant Professorship at UW-Whitewater. Props to the professors, instructors, staff and grad students at UWM Geography for helping me realize my skills as an educator, researcher, and, I would like to think, critical thinker! I now have the pleasure of opening young minds to the world of development geography, migration studies, and Milwaukee's urban geography, which is, surprisingly, unexplored territory for many. In addition to my standard lecture classes I recently co-taught a class that included a two-week study component in Oaxaca, Mexico. Oh, Mexico, my love for you never tires. Speaking of Mexico and Milwaukee, I am continuing my transnational ethnography into the economic and social ties between Milwaukee and a small village in Jalisco, Mexico. This summer, I will be researching the so-called "skills gap" between employment opportunities and workers in local industry, with a particular interest in the role Milwaukee's burgeoning Latino and Mexican migrant population play in the city's highly-segmented labor market.



I also had the opportunity to travel to Ethiopia last year to visit my (now) wife's family. Our trip included a five day hike in the Ethiopian highlands complete with overnight stays at local tukuls (thatched-roof, adobe huts) where we danced and drank tej (honey wine) into the night. I hope to open up a new line of research on the Ethiopian "developmental state" in the future. But, for now, my feet are firmly planted in Wisconsin.



Emily Grant, BA '12: Upon graduation, I was presented with the opportunity to work for RJN Group Inc as a GIS technician. Located west of Chicago, in Wheaton, Illinois, RJN Group is a Civil Engineering Firm that specializes in collective systems. Working as a GIS technician for a Civil Engineering company, I am able to use my Geography degree on a day-to-day basis. One of my main tasks includes using GIS in order to organize field data and develop maps for in-house engineers and clients. To further my knowledge, I often research what other professionals are doing to enhance GIS and spatial components. Currently, RJN is exploring numerous data collection softwares that allow for real-time data access all over

the country as well as immediate map updates. I am currently collecting data in order to compile a paper on alternative data collection and to explore what GIS can do for mapping the collective system.

In my free time, I use GIS and the online spatial component, ArcGIS Online. Through ArcGIS Online, I am able to create my own personal spatial network and am working on a map that tracks my past and future vacations. Having the opportunity to teach individuals the importance of GIS has been an enriching experience in my professional career thus far. I look forward to increasing my knowledge of GIS and gaining my GIS Professional Certificate in the future.



Jason Tilidetzke, BA '11: Soon after earning my Geography degree, I became a graduate student at UWM in the School of Architecture and Urban Planning (SARUP), graduating in spring 2013 with a Master of Urban Planning degree. At the same time, I accepted a SARUP project assistantship to report on the Menomonee Valley's progress since 2002 – the 2013 Menomonee Valley Benchmarking Initiative (MVBI). The focus of the project was to review benchmarks of sustainability created for the Valley nearly 10 years ago. Despite a project delay (at which point I became a teaching assistant with Professor Huxhold in SARUP), I was able to complete the report at the end of 2013.

Following my graduate studies, I worked for a local real estate development firm as a market research analyst. Roughly one year later, I began my current job as a field engineer for a regional utility contractor in the Chicago area. Despite an ambiguous job title, the position has many duties: construction scheduling, data management/analysis, GIS, GPS, and problem solving. Our company assists the local energy company with installment of polyethylene gas pipe in the City of Chicago.

I value my time spent in the Geography program because it allowed me to create my own career path and harness my skills. I believe to create success, you need to contribute effort. And my time in the Geography program helped me achieve my goals.

Jessica Helgesen, BA '12: After graduation, I searched for positions related to environmental geography, planning, and community engagement that incorporated the opportunity to use my Spanish. My overall goal was to find a position that would help me gain more experience before heading to graduate school or participating in the Peace Corps.



Shortly after graduation, I had the opportunity to work in Madison, WI for about 1.5 years at Dane County Parent Council, Inc. as a Bilingual Family Outreach Worker (FOW) at the Preschool Enrichment Program (PEP) located at the East Madison Community Center. I worked with many Spanish-speaking families, improving my Spanish skills, and I learned how to better engage low-income and diverse communities. With a background in Environmental Geography and Urban Studies, I decided to complete a Family Service Credential to provide more effective social services to the Head Start Families. Working in Head Start as FOW had its challenges and rewards, but I rarely delved into the environmental realm. I really wanted to use my degrees I received at UWM and follow my dream to mend and/or create sustainable regions.

To take a step towards the latter dream, I applied to the Peace Corps. Starting mid-March 2014, I will travel to Mexico to serve with the Peace Corps, participating in a project focusing on Environment and Natural Resource Management as a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) /Information Technology Specialist. After three months of training, the Peace Corps officials will place each volunteer to a specific urban or rural location in central or southern Mexico. I will establish relationships with the community and other important stakeholders and analyze the GIS needs of the host agency and provide assistance with these said needs to help empower the community/agency, among other tasks. In training, I will receive more specific guidance on the needs within the country in regards to the project.

I am excited to partake in a new adventure with Peace Corps. Along with other opportunities, the Geography Department specifically helped me prepare for international experiences via my undergraduate thesis, fieldwork, and multiple international immersions.

FACULTY NEWS

Several UWM faculty members have presented their research in recent months, or will deliver lectures later in the spring. These include:

- **Anne Bonds** at the Social Science History Association, Chicago
- **Mick Day** at the UK-Belize symposium at the School of the Americas, University College London
- **Rina Ghose** at DePaul University, Chicago, and the Open GIS Workshop before the annual Association of American Geographers meeting
- **Ryan Holifield** at the University of California-Davis
- **Linda McCarthy** at the Asian Urbanization Conference in Varanassi, India

And as usual, faculty members and graduate students have been busy publishing their research – in far too many outlets to list!

Three geography faculty members are now affiliated with the UWM Center for Economic Development as Faculty Fellows: **Anne Bonds, Ryan Holifield, and Linda McCarthy**. You can see the full list of Fellows at: <http://www4.uwm.edu/ced/fellows.cfm>.

Rina Ghose is engaged in a collaborative research project that uses historical data to study climate change in the Great Lakes. She was also recently invited to be a member of the program committee of the International Conference of Geographic Information Science in Vienna. She also serves on a faculty advisory committee for community-based research.

In February, **Linda McCarthy** served as a Visiting Professor at the School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy at University of Ireland, Dublin.

In November, **Kristin Sziarto and Anna Mansson McGinty** led a book discussion session in the series “Muslim Journeys – American Stories” in the American Geographical Society Library.

Woonsup Choi delivered a colloquium lecture entitled “Urbanization and rainfall-runoff relationships in the Milwaukee River basin” for the UW-Milwaukee Department of Geosciences.

Faculty members who have joined the editorial boards of geography journals recently include **Anna Mansson McGinty** (*Gender, Place, and Culture*) and **Ryan Holifield** (*Antipode*). **Woonsup Choi** is the administrator for the newly launched peer-reviewed open-access journal *International Journal of Geospatial and Environmental Research*, hosted on the Digital Commons of the UWM Libraries (<http://dc.uwm.edu/ijger/>), and both **Choi** and **Zengwang Xu** are on the editorial board.

Mark Schwartz received a Spring 2014 SURF (Support for Undergraduate Research Fellows) Award, which will enable an undergraduate to conduct paid research assistance.



Betty Rhodes, MS '00, served the department for many years as instructor for a wide variety of undergraduate classes. She retired from UWM in December 2013, and we were pleased to celebrate her outstanding, dedicated service at the annual departmental holiday party at Solo Pizza on Oakland Avenue. We wish her the very best for her retirement. (pictured left to right: Betty Rhodes, Patti Day, and Linda McCarthy)

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Emile Joaquin Mayer Padilla was born on December 21, 2013 at 9:13 am. He was a healthy 6 lbs. 2 oz. and 18 inches long. He is growing quickly and getting ready to move to Colombia for fieldwork with his father, PhD student **Nick Padilla**.



What's going on today? A look into current research interests of the graduate students in the UWM Department of Geography.

Wenliang Li: PhD student

Research interests: Estimating large-scale urban impervious surfaces distribution (such as Wisconsin) and the corresponding environmental effect (e.g. hydrological effect, urban heat island, etc.); examining the driving forces of rapid urbanization, modeling and predicting urbanization process and its impact on surrounding environment and ecosystem.

Stephen Appel: MS student

Research interests: GIScience and Remote Sensing and their applications in conservation of natural resources, biogeography, and recently, phenology. I've also become increasingly interested in spatial data distribution, data standards, and public domain data and associated issues of accessibility.

Rebecca Wolfe: PhD student

Research interests: Exploring the co-operative model as an alternative to capitalist enterprise. In particular, I am interested in co-ops as an opportunity to contribute to 'diverse economies' and as an access point for citizenship/participatory democracies, community control and asset building/ownership among women and low-income communities of color. The questions that I hope to address revolve around uncovering the history of the co-operative movement within communities of color and the role of race in co-operative discourse and development today. Through my research I also hope to gain an understanding of the potential co-ops may have for generating long-term economic development, employment and community assets in communities of color.

Peter Armstrong: MA student

Research interests: Understanding how influential urban institutions such as universities can better endorse bicycle commuting. I am interested in their potential relationship to influence better designed and more livable cities, where the bicycle is commonplace. The bicycle can be a rather convenient means to getting around, and to solving many of our modern societal issues, but it needs a safe infrastructure to optimize its use. Therefore, designing safe streets for bicycles not only encourages people to ride, but makes for safer and healthier cities for all. Through my research I hope to understand under what conditions will/do universities or cities decide to advocate for the bicycle?

Haijian Liu: PhD student

Research Interests: I'm interested in detecting tree species based on discrete LiDAR points alone and the fusion of LiDAR data and Hyperspectral data. By filtering the raw LiDAR data, a smoother image can be created. Then the location of each tree can be determined based on crown's characteristics and the general tree species can be automatically identified. Hyperspectral data includes more spectral information comparing multiple spectral data and LiDAR data. The fusion of LiDAR data and Hyperspectral data has benefits in identifying specific species. My research focuses on classifying vegetation in urban area and identifying ash trees in Milwaukee. Ash trees account for a large proportion of forests in Wisconsin, but they are at the risk of being attacked by invading beetles so detecting ash trees is critical in developing forest protection plans.

Katie Williams: PhD student

Research interests: I study ecosystem approaches to environmental restoration in three "toxic hotspots" designated as Great Lakes Areas of Concern: St. Louis River (Duluth, Minnesota/Superior, Wisconsin), St. Marys River (Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan/Ontario, Canada), and Milwaukee Estuary. More specifically, I look at how stakeholders and the public participate in the processes of remediating and restoring these degraded areas, as well as the opportunities for creating community around natural resources.



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