

# PANTHER GEOGRAPHY

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



As autumn rolls along, southeastern Wisconsin is in the midst of glorious mid-October weather. Now that almost two months have passed, I'm starting to settle in once again to the duties of department chair. Those of you who have been around for a while will remember that I previously served in this role for eleven years between 1996 and 2013. Frankly, given the challenges of recent years, I was more than a bit apprehensive about once again "taking the reins."

I was heavily involved in these concerns at the campus and UW-System level, serving as Chair of the UW-Milwaukee Faculty Senate Executive (known locally as the "University") Committee from 2010-2015. Last year, I took a full academic year sabbatical, which allowed me to recharge and re-energize my phenological research program.

So how are things going for the UW-Milwaukee Geography Department in Fall 2016? Given the difficult financial times our whole University continues to experience, the department remains relatively healthy and moving forward (though admitted much more slowly than we would choose to), thanks to the incredible dedication, devotion, and accomplishments of my faculty and staff colleagues.

I am pleased to highlight some positive recent developments: 1) Geography faculty and graduate students enjoyed pleasant outdoor conditions earlier this semester (even managing to defy a forecast for rain—none occurred!) at our departmental picnic, which was held on the afternoon of Sunday, Sept. 26th. 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; 2) Three students finished their doctoral degrees this past spring. They are: Wenliang Li, I-Hui Lin, and Margaret Pettygrove; 3) Doctoral student Nick Schuelke received a Clinton R. Edwards award from the faculty for up to \$1,500 to support his field research in Greeley, Colorado, during the 2016-2017 academic year; and 4) Dr. Becky Mansfield, a Professor of Geography at Ohio State University, will deliver the Fall Harold and Florence Mayer lecture on Friday, November 4, 2016.

So as you can see, despite our challenges, the department continues to enjoy many noteworthy achievements. Please read all about them in the rest of this newsletter! We appreciate your continued support, and hope that all of you will contact us and share what you have been doing.

Mark D. Schwartz

Fall 2016: Volume 13, Issue 1

## Contents:

Letter from the Chair.....	p.1
Department News.....	p.2
Student News.....	p.4
Alumni Updates.....	p.6
Faculty News.....	p.7

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## DEPARTMENT NEWS:

### Congratulations to our Recent Graduates!

The department would like to congratulate the following recent graduates from the geography program:

- George Ananchev (MA)
- Sue Borchardt (MS)
- Ben Drew (MS)
- Wenliang Li (PhD)
- I-Hui Lin (PhD)
- Margaret Pettygrove (PhD)

### Ecuadorian Indigenous Geographies

by Nicholas L. Padilla, Geography Associate Lecturer

Three students and I spent June 2016 living and researching with a Kichwa community deep in the Amazon, about 12 kilometers outside of Tena, Ecuador. We lived and worked at the Andes and Amazon Field School during our month in Ecuador. We engaged in two separate courses that examined indigenous relationships with the rainforest through mapping and researching about indigenous connections to plants, animals, and the landscape.

The field school consists of approximately 700 hectares of primary and secondary Amazon rainforest, nested above the Napo River. Our daily morning sessions consisted of frequently long hikes to collect locational data of strangler figs and map segments of land where timber has

previously been harvested or the land was used for agricultural production. Our indigenous guide, Don Pedro, led us up mountains, across streams, through the forest. Along the way we encountered venomous and non-venomous snakes, monkeys, all kinds of birds, and even happened upon some illegal hunting traps while Don Pedro narrated his experiences in the forest to us. Each afternoon we worked with other indigenous partners to examine how indigenous histories are intertwined with the forest itself. Our days were long and challenging, but the students and I enjoyed the opportunity to hike the Amazon rainforest with Don Pedro and learn from his five decades of experience of living in the forest.

I will be leading another six-credit course to Tena, Ecuador during June 2017. We will continue to identify and map forest areas that are regenerating, and we will engage native relationships to nature. If you would like to know more about this study abroad opportunity, please contact Nick Padilla ([npadilla@uwm.edu](mailto:npadilla@uwm.edu)).



# DEPARTMENT NEWS:

## Welcome New Graduate Students!

The department would like to welcome the following new graduate students to the doctoral program:

### Muriel Marseille

Muriel Marseille received her bachelor's degree from University of Illinois-Champaign Urbana in French Literature and Political Science. She has studied abroad extensively, spending her junior year in Paris, France, and later spent her last semester in Leuven, Belgium. She later studied International Relations, turning her focus to development which brought her to the discipline of geography. She completed a compelling master's thesis entitled, "On Poverty and Sustainability: A Geographic Analysis of Poverty and Green Technology in Urban Chicago." Her interests include international development, urban, economic, and cultural geography. She is happy to be a part of the Geography Department family at UWM.



### Sammi Kaufman

Sammi is from Muskego, Wisconsin, and has been a Panther four times. She started as a Greendale High School Panther. She received her BA in Journalism with a focus in Strategic Communications at UWM. Sammi then spent time in advertising, working for Laughlin Constable as a Senior Marketing Analyst. After about 5 years, she returned to school and got an MA in Media Studies in the JAMS department. During her time as a Media Studies student, Sammi worked on projects with Victory Garden Initiative, a local gardening nonprofit organization. Sammi's adviser is Anne Bonds. She is interested in urban agriculture, critical race theory, and food equity.



### Katie Merkle

Katie holds a bachelor degree in Geography and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies from Ohio University. After receiving her Bachelor degree, Katie moved to Chicago where she lived for six years working in youth development. However, Katie missed geography and the world of academia desperately, so she returned to Ohio University to complete her master degree. When Katie isn't working, she enjoys cooking, eating, hiking and game nights.



Masters Thesis:

*Blurring Boundaries:*

*Exploring the Lived Experiences of Pregnant Graduate Students*

### Heather Geyer

I am originally from NY and completed my BSc at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. It was at SUNY-ESF that I became increasingly interested in studying anthropogenic pressures on natural systems. I moved to Ireland in 2010 to pursue my MSc in Biodiversity and Conservation where I focused on the impacts of changing climatic conditions on avian phenology. In addition to my educational experience, I've had the opportunity to work as a Wildlife Biologist for the USDA, a field assistant for a study of the endangered A'kohekohe in the cloud rainforests of Haleakala in Maui, Hawaii, as well as a wildland firefighter with the Mill Creek Hotshots on the San Bernardino National Forest in California (among many other roles). I look forward to continuing in my educational journey with the Department of Geography at UWM.



### Sue Borchardt

The department would also like to welcome Sue Borchardt, who is continuing her graduate studies in the department as a doctoral student under her adviser, Prof. Woonsup Choi.



# DEPARTMENT NEWS:

## Department Hosts Guest Speakers For Its Colloquium Series

The Geography Department's colloquium series included two guest presentations in September and October 2016. The first was from Dr Brett Story, SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow, The Centre for Place, Culture and Politics, CUNY Graduate Centre, speaking on "The making of 'The prison in twelve landscapes.'" Dr. Story spoke of the inspiration for her award-winning documentary film which brings the viewer on a journey across US landscapes from Los Angeles to Detroit to Appalachia uncovering how prisons influence and impact people's lives, from the people who are incarcerated, to their families and friends, and neighbours.

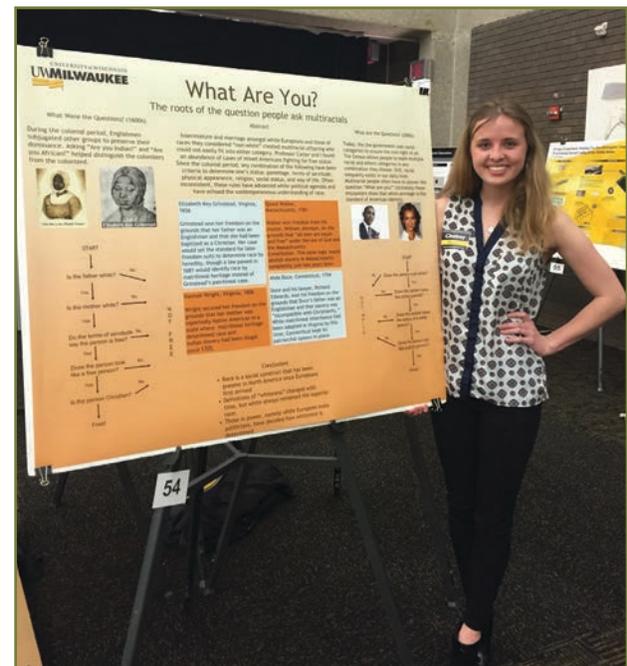


The second presentation was from Prof. Ermitte Saint-Jacques, UWM Department of Africology, on "Male boarders and young wives: the social dynamics of overcrowded housing among West Africans in Spain." Prof Saint-Jacques described the numerous struggles faced by people migrating from various parts of Africa to Catalunya in Spain. Some of the issues included finding the money to make the treacherous journey, securing lodging and work on arrival, and the difficulties of integrating and coping with cultural differences within the local community.

# STUDENT NEWS

## Undergraduate News

Chelsey Knuth, junior and 2016 Mary Jo Read scholarship recipient, participated in the UW SURF Undergraduate Research Symposium this spring under UWM associate professor of history, Gregory T. Carter, PhD. Her research project, entitled "What Are You? The roots of the question people ask multiracials," explores the way parentage, census data, physical appearance, and geographic location, among other factors, determined a person's race in 16th and 17th century America, particularly in major court decisions. Her geographical background allowed for the analysis of racial classification across state and regional borders as well as the examination of court decisions at local, state, and national scales.



# STUDENT NEWS

## Graduate News

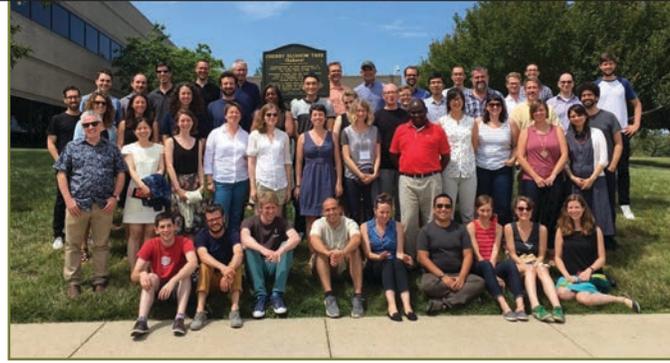
### PhD Student Yui Hashimoto Attends The Summer Institute In Economic Geography

This summer, I was invited to attend the eighth Summer Institute in Economic Geography, which was held at the University of Kentucky. I traveled to hot and humid Lexington to discuss a wide range of topics related to economic geography with approximately 40 upper-level graduate students, post-docs, and junior faculty from around the world together with five featured faculty speakers, Beverley Mullings (Queen's University), Jane Pollard (Newcastle University), Gavin Bridge (Durham University), and Neil Coe (National University of Singapore). We spent five days together discussing theoretical and disciplinary questions related to economic geography, wrestling with professional development in an increasingly challenging job market, listening to fascinating lectures, and going on some of the most memorable fieldtrips of my life! The group photo is of us visiting the world's largest Toyota factory in Georgetown, Kentucky. There, we thought about the struggling rural economies of Kentucky and how entire families were employed at the factory, a large portion of whom travel upwards of 100 miles a day for work. We also visited Buffalo Trace Distillery to understand (and taste!) the role of the bourbon industry in the cultural and economic landscapes of the Lexington area. Finally, we visited a horse farm where we learned the intimate details of the horse breeding and racing industries and their historical ties to slavery, the "frontier", the cultural landscape of Lexington, as well as the industries' transnational ties to the Gulf States and the Southern Cone. I thoroughly enjoyed bonding with the other attendees over our awe and fascination of what we learned on those field trips.

Thank you to Jamie Peck together with Sue Roberts, Michael Samers, Andy Wood, Matt Zook, and the UK Department of Geography for hosting us and the opportunity to meet with, think, discuss, and drink and eat with such a fabulous group of people. Thank you to Society of Woman Geographers Pruitt Dissertation Fellowship for funding travel to Lexington.

### PhD Student Yingbin Deng Receives A UWM Distinguished Dissertation Fellowship

Thanks to UWM's Graduate School and Department of Geography. I am lucky to have received the Distinguished Dissertation Fellow (DDF) for the academic year of 2016-2017. I am very proud to be a PhD student at UWM, especially in our department. I don't think I could have received this award without help from my supervisor, Changshan Wu; the understanding and support from my wife, Renrong Chen; the support from the faculty and my colleagues in the department, and the support of the UWM Graduate School. This fellowship definitely allows me to pursue and achieve more in my field of research, and attain my research goals. Thank you all!



# ALUMNI UPDATES

## Peter Armstrong, MA - 2015

Before graduating in May 2015, I was a single parent and returning adult student. After five years, I completed my undergraduate and Master's degrees, an accomplishment I never imagined achieving. This would not have been possible without my family caring for my children, state aid programs, and the unforgettable compassion of the UWM Children's Center and Life Impact Program. Additionally, during my internship in the UWM Office of Sustainability, I was given invaluable mentorship and gained skills for my career goals. Support from the amazing faculty in the department of Geography, especially from Linda McCarthy and Ryan Holifield, as well as Robert Schneider in SARUP, made it possible for me to graduate amidst the difficulties that come with being a single parent and returning adult student.



The year 2015 was a series of accomplishments, celebrations, and life changing events. Directly after graduation, I traveled to Lake Tahoe, Calif., with my then-girlfriend Megan, who also graduated with her Master's in May 2015. We hiked, biked, and took some time to relax before Megan moved to Madison, where she had accepted a position in Residence Life at Edgewood College. In July, I paid a surprise visit to Megan and proposed. She said yes! So, in August 2015, my children and I moved to Madison. Megan and I married on Dec. 18.

We are now Madisonians and loving it; those who know me know that I love Madison's bicycle friendliness! My children are settled in and have built friendships at their new school. My wife is enjoying her second year at Edgewood, and as of July of 2016, I am officially a Badger. Although I will always be a Panther at heart, I was ecstatic to accept a position as the Commuter Solutions Coordinator in Transportation Services at UW-Madison. I work in the transportation demand management unit, which was my Master's research focus area, and I am helping UW-Madison reduce drive alone commutes to our campus. I love being back at a university. It truly feels like home. The eight-minute bicycle commute to work isn't so bad either!

Today, I look back at how far I have come since

January 2010. From a single parent who lost his job days after tearing his ACL, to returning to school to provide my kids a better life, to finding a woman who would stand by my side and help me raise my kids, it has been quite a journey. Life hasn't taken me where I expected, but I am grateful for the experiences I have had and the people I have met along the way. My time at UWM changed my life and I can say without a doubt that it has gotten me where I am today.

## Tom Welcenbach MA - 2015; GIS Certificate - 2013

When I was a graduate student, I started developing a Community Information System with free and open source GIS software (FOSS4G) for Groundwork Milwaukee. I began working full time for Groundwork Milwaukee in March of 2016 and immediately started their first GIScience Program.



Groundwork Milwaukee collaborates with numerous organizations and government agencies to develop partnerships that promote environmental, economic and social well-being. The GIScience Program supports the efforts and makes maps to show the impact of all Groundwork Milwaukee's programs, as well as those of our community partners. QGIS, Magpi and the web based mapping program Carto are the GIS systems used to produce, visualize, and share spatial information with various organizations, community activists, urban gardeners, local residents and politicians.

This summer, I organized the field data collection process to verify the status of 125 community gardens throughout Milwaukee County. Recently I began working on State Sen. Lena Taylor's Faith & Love Initiative. Sen. Taylor asked Groundwork Milwaukee for assistance with GIS mapping and community organizing to support the development and implementation of the plans and actions associated with her initiative.

This fall I will be teaching two workshops at GIS Day. The first workshop covers Magpi, the mobile data collection application, and the second workshop is on making web-based maps with Carto.

## FACULTY NEWS:

### Professor Alison Donnelly Conducts A Climate Science Workshop

Together with her collaborator Prof. Frank Shaw (recently deceased) from Illinois State University, Prof. Alison Donnelly ran a workshop on climate science in the Chemistry Department at UWM in August 2016. The workshop was designed to give hands-on experience to local educators on ways to communicate climate science in the classroom. Participants were provided with a unique opportunity to learn the facts about climate change and extreme weather events, and how they impact ecosystems and human health. In addition, they received hands-on training on how to conduct a number of laboratory experiments to help communicate climate change to students. Furthermore, participants were encouraged to engage with the expert speakers and discuss the potential impacts of climate change during a fieldtrip to a local urban woodland.



### Faculty News In Brief

Linda McCarthy was invited to participate in the Beijing Forum 2016, which was held in Beijing from November 4 -6. Held annually, the forum brings together leaders from around the world for academic and cultural exchange on topics of world peace and social progress.

Mark D. Schwartz was the keynote speaker at a symposium on “The Future of Nature: Managing the Impacts of Invasive Species and Climate Change on the Natural Resources of Northwest Lower Michigan,” which took place at the Hagerty Center at Northwestern Michigan Community College (Traverse City, Mich.) on September 30, 2016. His presentation was entitled “Changing Nature’s Clocks – Climate Change and Phenology”. It can be viewed at <http://www.upnorthmedia.org/watchupnorthtv.asp?sdbfid=9675>.

Changshan Wu is the Editor of a special issue of the journal *Sensors* titled “Urban remote sensing: monitoring, synthesis and modeling in the urban environment”.

Mark D. Schwartz and Alison Donnelly deploying light sensors to capture the change in light levels under a mixed forest canopy in northern Wisconsin, August 27.



UWMilwaukeeGeography



<http://tinyurl.com/UWMGeogLI>

Please join us on social media! We invite all alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends to connect with us and use these as spaces for networking.



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