

PANTHER GEOGRAPHY

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Wisconsin's wild weather continues to keep our attention, as usual! In May and June, we had another very cloudy and wet late spring/early summer (as in 2018). However, the summer turned out about normal for temperature and rainfall overall, and I ended up with a better-than-average harvest of sweet corn (for Shorewood). In addition, despite fighting tomato leaf spot fungus throughout the entire season, I got enough ripe fruit to produce two full batches of fresh salsa this year. Not bad, all things considered! Lastly, we had one final gasp of summer on September 30th, when the high temperature reached 87°F!



Here is a quick summary of some of our recent departmental news: 1) Assoc. Prof. Glen Fredlund retired in August 2019 after serving 29 years; 2) Geography faculty and graduate students held our annual departmental picnic on the afternoon of Sunday, Sept. 22nd at the UWM Field Station (near Saukville, Wisc.). It was an amazing event, given the forecast called for a 100% chance of rain, yet we had no rain from 12:30-3:30pm that day!; 3) Prof. Jayajit Chakraborty, a Professor of Geography at University of Texas-El Paso will deliver the Fall Harold and Florence Mayer lecture on Friday, November 15, 2019; 4) three students finished their doctoral degrees this past spring: Feng Pan, Nick Schuelke, and Wei Xu; and 5) eight new graduate students joined the department this semester: Rachel Graham, Sakib Hasan, Catherine Heady, Trevor Iglinski, Dulmini Jayawardana, Lulu Liu, Chuchen Pan, and Andrew Schendl.

So, the department continues to enjoy many noteworthy achievements, including an excellent graduate student recruitment this past year. Please read all about our news in the rest of this newsletter. We appreciate your continued support and hope to hear back from you as well. Please let us know what you have been doing!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mark D. Schwartz
Chair, Department of Geography

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Contents:

Letter from the Chair	p. 1
Department News	p. 2-3
Graduate Student News	p. 4-5
Alumni Updates	p. 6-7
In Memoriam: Betty Morgan	p. 7

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College of Letters & Science

DEPARTMENT NEWS



Salam Yousry Brings the Choir Project to UWM

The Choir Project, a collection of workshops and performances focused on the life stories of its diverse participants, was held on UWM's campus last spring. The week-long project included students, faculty, and staff and was sponsored by the Muslim Milwaukee Project, an interdisciplinary research project by Dr. Anna Mansson McGinty, Dr. Caroline Seymour-Jorn, Dr. Kristin Sziarto, and members of the Muslim community. The Choir Project, directed by Salam Yousry, started in 2010 and has traveled through Europe and Egypt reaching thousands of participants.

Rong Yu Returns to UWM as a Post-Doc

Being back in the geography department at UWM is like being back home in the United States! It is great to catch up with everyone and hear what they have been doing over the past few years. Everybody is extremely welcoming, and everything is so familiar but there are also many new and friendly faces around.

Time is passing so fast since I arrived in September and Downer Woods is close to the end of leaf coloration. Terrestrial ecosystems and climate change have always been the focus of my research, and I am delighted to return to work with Prof. Alison Donnelly on a phenological study of deciduous trees and shrubs in Downer Woods. This study focuses on examining in situ phenology and newly acquired images from the recently launched micro-satellite VEN μ S (Vegetation and Environment monitoring on a New MicroSatellite). Currently, Alison and I are co-leading the phenology group at the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) Science Summit hosted by the Earth Lab in Boulder, Colorado. This proposed 30-year long, continental level network will provide a unique opportunity to study our changing ecosystems and environment across the United States. In December, Alison, Chloe Rehberg, and I will attend the 2019 American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting to report our preliminary findings on Phenology in Ireland, shrub phenology, and VEN μ S derived phenology.



Fall Picnic

We celebrated a start to the Fall 2019 semester with an annual picnic at the UWM Field Station. Although the forecast was heavy rain, the sky cleared up long enough for us to grill on the barbeque and take a walk through the bogs! We had plenty of faculty and graduate students present and look forward to next year's fall picnic!



FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

- **Zengwang Xu** received an additional federal grant as the extension of a previously funded project from the National Institute of Justice.
- **Mark Schwartz** served as co-PI on research published on the front page of the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*.
- **Rina Ghose** was an invited speaker at the University of British Columbia and the University of Washington-Tacoma. She also served as co-editor of a special issue on Smart Cities in *The Canadian Geographer*, and she was invited to join the editorial board of the *Journal of Race, Ethnicity and the City*.
- **Donna Genzmer** participated in map judging at the 2019 Wisconsin Land Information Association annual meeting. She was invited to participate on a panel on women in IT and STEM at Wisconsin Girls Summit at Alverno College, and she presented data workshops to local middle and high school teachers.
- **Alison Donnelly** received a grant to attend the NEON Science Summit in Boulder, CO.
- **Woonsup Choi** was quoted in an article about deforestation in North Korea, published in *E&E News* and reprinted in *Scientific American*.
- **Anne Bonds** and her Transforming Justice work was featured in the Cartography and Design Challenge at UW-Madison. She was recognized by the Accessibility Resource Center with the 2019 ARC Excellence Award, and she will deliver an invited guest lecture at St. Norbert College this November.

Fall Colloquiums

The lectures committee hosted several thought provoking colloquiums this semester, including a talk by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District GIS Supervisor, Emily Champagne on "Applying GIS to Support Green Infrastructure at MMSD," and a talk by Bree Spencer, the director of evaluation and technical assistance at Safe and Sound Inc., entitled "Increasing collective efficacy: a Milwaukee approach to build safe & empowered neighborhood."

We also took a field trip to the UWM Archaeological Research Lab.



Emily Champagne



Bree Spencer

WELCOME NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS

Rachel Graham

I am from Washington state and love hiking and camping. My research has been in political economy, but I will be addressing food deserts and participatory GIS in my thesis. I hope to positively contribute to the community of UWM as a graduate student and a TA.



Sakib Hasan

I am currently a masters' student of Department of Geography in UWM. with research interests in GIS, Remote Sensing and Urban Geography. I did my bachelor's degree in Urban & Regional Planning from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology in 2017. After I graduated, I worked as GIS Analyst in Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority, Prime Minister's Office, Bangladesh.

Catherine Heady

I am a masters' student at UWM from Louisville, Kentucky. I received my undergraduate degree from the University of Louisville where I studied gender and the built environment, specifically within an urban college campus. My research interests are gender, urban landscapes, and built environment.



Trevor Iglinski

Hailing from Oak Creek, Wisc., originally, I have lived in and been involved with field research in a variety of ecosystems such as dry steppe, arboreal montane, and northern hardwood forest. Having also worked in the private sector as an Arborist, a utility forester, and a rose hybridizer allowed me to focus my interest into urban forest dynamics. My recent research project through summer 2019 was a comprehensive ecosystem energy-balance study conducted near Park Falls, Wisc., named CHEESEHEAD. My role involved measuring forest primary production with airgun, shovel, camera, typical forestry equipment, and more.

Dulmini Jayawardana

I hold a masters in Sustainable Peacebuilding from UWM and my interests lie in research and community engaged practice that focus on social and environmental justice. I am looking forward to incorporating transdisciplinary perspectives, and value of relationships and collaborations to achieve systemic change, through my PhD in Geography at UWM.



Lulu Liu

I received my master's degree in Geographic Information System and Environment Science from East Stroudsburg University. I held an internship in Monroe Conservation District for half a year as a cartographer and GIS analyst. My research interests include urban remote sensing, artificial intelligence in remote sensing, and the application of GIS and remote sensing in environment. I am excited to get into higher education in the Department of Geography.

Chuchen (Eden) Pan

My research interests include critical geographies of race and education, labor geography, and urban geography. At UWM, I hope to focus my research on what neoliberalism can (and cannot) tell us about the contestation over K-12 education restructuring in the US. Previously, I got my BA & Sc. in Social Sciences (focusing on geography, anthropology, and economics) from Quest University Canada. My undergraduate thesis/project looked at the links between neoliberalism, precarity, philanthropy, and local labor market gaps.





Andrew Schendl

I received my bachelor’s degree in Conservation and Environmental Science from UWM in 2017. Upon completion of my bachelor’s degree, I served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Paraguay, teaching environmental science and ultimately reigniting my passion for geography. My current research interests include health geography, spatial epidemiology, and their application in combating the opioid epidemic. I am excited to be continuing my education with the Department of Geography at UWM.

NEWS FROM OUR GRADUATE STUDENTS

- **Gainbi Park** has received a Northwestern Mutual Data Science Institute Scholarship (\$5,000).
- **Minji Kim** was invited to participate in the SSRC Korean Studies Dissertation Workshop in August.
- **Feng Pan** (PhD, 2019) has begun a post-doctoral position in Agricultural and Biological Engineering at Purdue University.
- **Wei Fan** welcomed daughter Lingran Wang on October 3, 2019.



Lingran Wang



to our Recent Graduates!

Feng Pan, PhD

Nick Schuelke, PhD

Wei Xu, PhD

Bailu Zhao, MS



Share Your Updates!

We’d love to hear about what you are doing since graduating from the geography program.

Send updates to Ryan Holifield at holifiel@uwm.edu

ALUMNI UPDATES



Elton Rogers (BA, 2013)

I attended UWM from 2009–2013 and concluded that summer with an internship with the City of Milwaukee Forestry Department. That internship proved vital as a jump start to my career. After that summer internship, I realized that I wanted to use my skills and knowledge I obtained as a physical systems geography major to pursue a career in urban forestry. Following my internship, I worked shortly as a landscaper at a private company before returning to the City of Milwaukee as an urban forestry specialist.

While helping to maintain Milwaukee’s urban forest, which includes over 200,000 street trees, I was trained in valuable skills including tree climbing, pruning, plant health care, etc. During this time, I utilized my GIS

background to help map out planting sites, select viable species to plant under wires and in limited urban growing spaces, create job orders for removal of hazardous trees, and much more. While working for the city I had the opportunity to work with MPS schools to hold Arbor Day celebrations and get the next generation excited about caring for our natural environment.

Near the end of my employment with the city of Milwaukee, I worked as a trainer for the nation’s first-ever State Registered Apprenticeship Program in Arboriculture. This exposure to training and educating was a launching pad to my current position as an instructor of arboriculture at Milwaukee Area Technical College.

I currently teach a number of classes on arboriculture at the MATC Mequon Campus. Topics range from plant health care, tree climbing and pruning, tree planting, tree ID, and much more. I am also the instructor for the State Registered Arborist Apprenticeship classes. The arboriculture and urban forestry industry continues to look for pathways for the younger generation to enter such an important field that works to create sustainability of the green infrastructure in the urban environment. I work closely with private industry, non-profits, and municipalities all over greater Milwaukee. Nearly all of the hands-on classes I run are held at parks and non-profit lands, as students and apprentices get real-life experience while also providing much-needed maintenance of our often-neglected urban forest. I use skills I obtained from UWM every single day of my job, and as I write this now, I have another tab open on my computer with GIS software. I am currently creating a tree inventory for MATC’s campus. This will help showcase the vast diversity of tree and shrub species that have been planted and maintained by my predecessors and colleagues here at the Mequon campus. The inventory will also serve as a valuable educational tool for future classes.

I am forever grateful for my experiences at UWM and the passion that the Geography department has instilled in me for studying the natural world and how it interacts with the urban environment. I can say without a doubt that I would not be in the position I find myself now, if it were not for UWM.

Bill Mueller (MA, 2002)

Bill Mueller, director of the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory, retired on October 15. He had dedicated almost ten years of service to the Observatory, after taking over from Dr. Noel Cutright. During his time at the Observatory, he coordinated the Waterbird Watch at Harrington Beach State park and converted the Squires Golf Course into a migratory bird preserve, among many other things.

Julio Rivera (PhD, 1999)

Dr. Julio Rivera has taken a new position as the William B. Yersin Endowed Professor of Applied Business Analytics at Carroll University.

Julie Kebisek (BA, 2010)

After completing my BA in Environmental Geography, I had a six-month internship in Milwaukee with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Throughout the spring and summer, I canoed down several Wisconsin rivers and catalogued the federally owned river islands, then mapped the flora and details of each island into the BLM's GIS database. This project was previously completed in the 1970s, so I had to use archived photos taken by the researchers during that time as a comparison for our journey. It was a very unique internship and I learned a lot!

In 2014 I started a Master of Public Health program at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities with a focus on Infectious Disease. While in graduate school, I worked as a teaching assistant in the Geography Department for an undergraduate Biogeography course. I also worked at the Minnesota Department of Health in the vector-borne disease unit, where I investigated cases of tick-borne disease in Minnesota, such as Lyme disease and Human Anaplasmosis. In the spring and summer, we collected ticks in selected forested regions of Minnesota to gain a better understanding of the population density and spread of the ticks and the pathogens they carry. It was truly thrilling every time we found a tick! But my interest wasn't limited to ticks - as part of my MPH, I spent a month in Puerto Rico working with the Center for Disease Control's Dengue Branch where I collected mosquitoes and assisted entomologists with preparations for an upcoming dengue outbreak investigation.

Since completing my MPH in 2016, I've been working at the Army Public Health Center as a Disease Epidemiologist, where I work on surveillance of infectious diseases in Army Service Members and their families. Earlier this year I assisted in a respiratory outbreak investigation and response at an Army base and have had the opportunity to travel to other Army installations. Most recently, I've published papers on an outbreak of norovirus at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, the epidemiology of heat illnesses in basic trainees, and gaps in the Army's disease surveillance system in the Medical Surveillance Monthly Report. Geography plays a huge role in epidemiology, and I'll always be grateful for the knowledge and experience I gained while earning my BA in Environmental Geography at UWM.

Jonathan Hanes (PhD, 2011)

Jonathan Hanes has been appointed Interim Director of the Office of Assessment and Institutional Research at UWM. Previously, Jonathan served as the Associate Director in OAIR where he was involved in a variety of efforts related to data analytics, data and report production, and institutional research. He also serves as an adjunct assistant professor in UWM's Department of Geography. Jonathan earned his BS in Geography from UW-Stevens Point and his PhD in Geography from UWM.



In Memoriam: Betty Morgan

We are sad to share the news that Betty Morgan, former Program Associate for the Department of Geography, died in July at the age of 68. Betty retired in May 2006, having provided 27 years of exceptional service to the department. Betty helped see the department through its most challenging era, as an earlier generation of professors retired, and the current faculty began to take shape. Former students, faculty, and staff remember Betty not only for her professionalism and reliability as a fount of institutional knowledge, but also for her unfailing courtesy and kindness. The Department of Geography has been truly privileged that Betty made it a central part of her life for more than two decades, and we will miss her deeply.



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