

# PANTHER GEOGRAPHY

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



A year on from the start of the pandemic and thankfully we can see a light at the end of the tunnel in the form of the vaccine rollout. UWM's Student Union is serving as a vaccination clinic for campus employees and the wider community. Our students continue to impress me having remained motivated and engaged throughout a full year of online learning which is testament to their resolve and resilience. They have demonstrated a high level of commitment and dedication to their academic work that will stand them in good stead for the future.

Spring is usually the season for attending academic meetings and conferences which provides us with an opportunity to share our research findings, engage with others working both in the same and different fields, and meet up with old friends. However, this year is very different! Despite not being able to travel to the American Association of Geographers annual meeting, many of us, faculty and students, will have a virtual presence at this important conference. Furthermore, Alison Donnelly, was invited by the European Geophysical Union to present on a collaborative research project which explores discrepancies between satellite monitoring and field observations of vegetation dynamics. In addition, Professor Anne Bonds gave an invited presentation at Cambridge University in the UK, on the very timely and important topic of race and ethnicity.

Another news item we would like to share with you is from a recent study conducted by Stanford University in which Distinguished Professor Mark D. Schwartz and I were ranked in the top 2% of scientists in the world. We would like to thank our colleagues both at UWM and around the world for their support, without whom we could not have reached this milestone.

We are sad to announce the retirement of Donna Genzmer, Director of the CartLab. Donna has been an integral member of the geography community both at UWM and further afield, our friend and colleague for more than four decades, and she will be greatly missed. We wish Donna a long and fulfilling retirement where she can focus on her hobbies and interests, which include lots of travel!

Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the faculty, staff and students in the Geography Department for their support, motivation and resilience during this challenging year. Stay safe and healthy!

Cheers,



Changshan Wu

Chair, Geography Department

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College of Letters & Science

## DEPARTMENT NEWS

We are delighted to welcome **Dr. Amanda Gallinat** to the Department as a post-doctoral research associate. Amanda Gallinat recently joined the UWM Geography Department as a postdoctoral researcher working with Mark D. Schwartz, Alison Donnelly, and colleagues at Cornell University and the National Phenology Network (NPN). As part of the group's new NSF Macrosystems project, Amanda is forecasting the timing of spring leaf-out and flowering in plants across the United States. These forecasts will use plant observations made by public participants through NPN and a new plant monitoring program at the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON). The group's goal is to learn how climate affects plant physiology across scales, seasons, and species, for improved predictions of plant and ecosystem ecology under future climate scenarios.

Amanda grew up in Hong Kong and holds a BA from Carleton College in Minnesota. In 2018 she received her PhD in Biology and certificate in Terrestrial Biogeoscience from Boston University. Her PhD research described the effects of climate change on the timing of biological events in autumn, with a focus on the consequences for interactions between birds and the fruits they eat during migration. Her work has been featured by Audubon, *The Boston Globe*, *American Scientist*, and NPR. Amanda recently completed a postdoctoral position at Utah State University where she investigated the role of evolutionary history in shaping where species occur today. Amanda also spends her time birding, backpacking, baking, and advocating for survivors of domestic violence.



**Mark D. Schwartz** and **Changshan Wu** have been ranked in the top 2% of scientists in the world in a study conducted by Stanford University. The study was based on the number of citations of their research over the course of their careers.

**Anne Bonds** stepped into the role of editor of the prestigious academic journal *Urban Geography* starting in January 2021. In addition, Anne was invited by the Cambridge University Geographical Society (CUGS) and the Cambridge University Student's Union BME Campaign (CUSU BME Campaign) in the UK to present a talk entitled "Thinking through Racial Capitalism" together with two other panelists (Brandi Thompson Summers, UC-Berkeley) and Ashok Kumar (University of London).

**Alison Donnelly** was invited to present some findings from a collaborative research project which explores discrepancies between satellite monitoring and field observations of vegetation dynamics at the Department of Geography, Environment and Sustainability, University of North Carolina at Greensboro and at the University of British Columbia's Biodiversity Research Seminar. She also gave a Mobile Master Chat presentation to the UWM Alumni Association on Monitoring Downer Woods from space and was invited to speak at the European Geophysical Union's annual spring meeting.

**So Hyung Lim** wrote three pieces on equitable access to COVID-19-related technologies and global health governance in Korean national newspapers and institutions such as *Pressian* and the People's Health Institutes. She also received the 2021 American Association of Geographers Socialist and Critical Geography Specialty Group Travel Award to support the AAG meeting.

**Minji Kim**, published a paper entitled, 'Plural and fluid place attachment amid tourism-induced neighborhood change in a disadvantaged neighborhood in South Korea', in *Geoforum* 2021, 121:129-137.

### Memoriam:

Sadly, Nelson Sederstrom, a former undergraduate student in Geography passed away at the end of 2020. Nelson received his BA in Geography in 2017 and had taken graduate classes in both Geography and Urban Studies in 2019. He was always eager to learn and share his knowledge and experience with the entire community. We wish his family and friends strength and courage during this difficult time.

### Conference participation:

Both faculty and graduate students presented their research findings at a number of venues in spring 2021, including the American Association of Geographers and the European Geophysical Union annual meetings. This year was different from all others due to the pandemic which called for presentations to be delivered online.

# RETIREMENT OF DONNA GENZMER



It is with mixed emotions that we bid our friend and colleague Donna farewell as she embarks on a new chapter in her life as a retiree. She will be greatly missed from the hallowed halls of the Geography Department where she would often be seen either going to or coming from the coffee pot stimulating productivity, discussion and community.

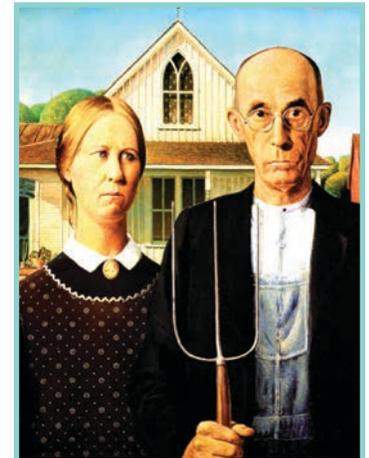
Donna's career at UWM has spanned more than four decades, starting when she was still an undergraduate. Her initial plan was to study art, and she explored the international relations program. But a course in cartography in the Department of Geography proved to be a turning point, introducing her to a way that she could combine her artistic and scientific interests. While still in the course, she was hired to work in the Cartography Lab (or the CartLab for short), and over time she worked her way up to become Director of what we now know as the Cartography and GIS Center.

During her tenure in the CartLab, Donna has had the opportunity both to participate in the evolution of geography as a discipline and to develop wonderful relationships with a wide variety of people across and beyond the UWM campus. As a student, she learned computer cartography using SYMAP with punch cards and a line printer (and she has kept an archive of materials from the era of pen-and-ink cartography still flourishing in the 1980s); in the 1990s, she and colleagues in geography and urban planning helped usher in the era of ArcGIS at UWM. As she advanced and led our GIS programs, including the Graduate GIS Certificate Program, the GIS Council, and GIS Day, Donna has enjoyed the challenge of keeping pace with a dynamic and rapidly changing field.

Taking on the additional role of lecturer in 2016, she has introduced many of our more recent graduates to the fundamentals of GIS. Her work on campus has received accolades that include an Academic Staff Outstanding Performance and Service Award and a Community-University Partnership with The Compost Project in Milwaukee. Beyond UWM, she has also served in various capacities with the Wisconsin Geographic Information Coordination Council, the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science, the North American Cartographic Information Society, and the Northwestern Mutual Data Science Institute. In the process, she has had opportunities to nurture relationships with faculty doing research, students figuring out what to do with their lives, tradespeople in GIS and cartography, community partners using GIS, and the custodians and staff members who keep Bolton Hall operating. Many of us in the geography community know Donna best as a mentor, guiding us through everything from the management of complex details and procedures to the "big picture" of our visions and goals.

Donna has played many roles during her distinguished career at UWM including one time when she was enlisted, by long-term UWM photographer Alan Magayne-Roshak, to pose with geologist Norm Lasca in an attempt to recreate the famous American Gothic painting for use in an advertising poster for a Science Bag in 1996.

Thank you Donna for your decades of hard work in the CartLab and beyond, your good cheer and endless coffee – the geography department will not be the same without you, but your legacy will live on. We know you have plans to devote more time to your passions for fiber arts and painting (and growing your own natural dyes!) and for world travel. We wish you a long and enjoyable retirement filled with many other new and exciting opportunities!



# REFLECTIONS ON THE RETIREMENT OF DONNA GENZMER

Jana Marie Gedymin (Lecturer in Geography, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh)

I first met Donna when I started the GIS Graduate certificate program in 2012. Later I had the pleasure of working with her as a GIS Project Assistant for several years where I learned the ins and outs of the GIS Graduate Certificate Program and what it takes to put on a successful GIS Day event. Donna and I have a lot in common – we are ambitious women in the field of GIS, we both have two children and we have the same birthday! Donna has been a mentor to me, not only in GIS, but also in navigating life as a working single mother in graduate school. Donna is dedicated to promoting GIS at UWM and beyond. She works hard to ensure that UWM is at the forefront of GIS education and is an invaluable resource for students from all walks of life. Her knowledge and experience are irreplaceable, and she will be greatly missed at UWM.



Bill Huxhold (Professor Emeritus, UWM Dept. of Urban Planning)

Donna has been the glue holding GIS together at UWM since the University first implemented the technology. When students became frustrated with the software and also their professors who expected them to use it; when the professors were frustrated with the GIS software and needed help analyzing data for their research projects; when the GIS Council needed someone to manage it, Donna was the “go-to” person. And she helped with respect for the people and interest in their work - always.

Some have called Donna the “Mother of GIS at UWM”. It is hard to argue that. She either hired students in her Lab or helped them find GIS work in the Milwaukee area. She helped many launch a full-time career in GIS – just look at the list of GIS Certificate Graduates that she has maintained since the early 1990’s.

I am one of many who owe a heap of gratitude for Donna’s efforts because I was one of those professors who asked her for help – many times. She has been a valuable colleague

who could deliver with a smile! Have a smooth and happy retirement, Donna!

Julio C. Rivera, PhD (William B. Yersin Professor of Applied Business Analytics, Carroll University, Waukesha, Wisc.)

The profound influence Donna Genzmer has had on the professional and academic world of GIS and mapping is easily understood when you look at the list of alumni that have come out of the Cartography and GIS Center (<https://uwm.edu/cgis/students-internships/alumni/>). I know many of these people, and I recognize their work and their contributions. There are far more that I do not recognize, and I begin to realize how far Donna’s contributions extend beyond the maps and projects that came out of the lab. She directed a generation of professionals working across disciplines and professions. Her work in GIS is recognized widely and on a number of occasions at conferences I have been asked “do you know Donna Genzmer?” I am always pleased to say “yes, I do,” and we share news or a story about Donna. For me Donna has always been a friend and mentor. I worked in the lab as it transitioned from traditional methods to computer methods and GIS became the primary work tool. Donna consistently challenged me with interesting projects, good questions, and mentoring that allowed me to build my skills and talents for my future. Beyond those early GIS skills, she also taught me how to be a better mentor to my students completing research projects. I have tried to emulate her calm and supportive style in my own work with students. Donna’s retirement is bittersweet, because it is well deserved after years of good work, but all good things come to an end. I wish you nothing but happiness and joy in your retirement.

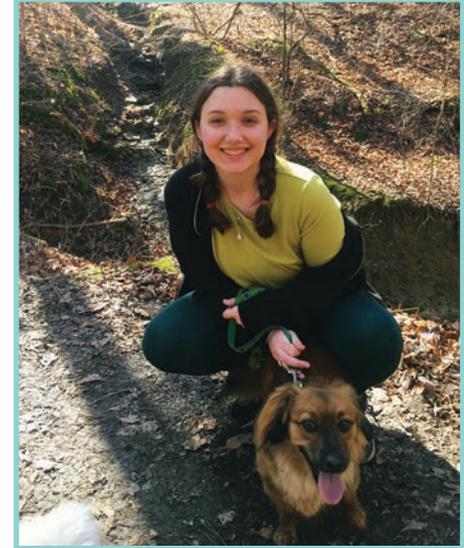
Peter Strand (GIS Administrator, Department of Planning and Development, Eau Claire County Courthouse)

Congratulations Donna! I would like to start with a big thank you from all of us who have worked with you over the years in the CartLab. When you hired me I had no idea what huge impact it would have on me and on my career. I specifically remember you saying, “...it doesn’t pay much, but there is good coffee, real tissue, and you can learn something.” That was definitely true in all aspects; I learned so much from you, and only deepened my appreciation for a stellar cup of coffee, just what every grad student needs. I learned cartographic skills, design concepts, and attention to detail. You also taught me to work hard, prioritize big projects and the importance of balancing education, work and family commitments. Your friendship, wisdom, knowledge and passion for mapping have provided such positive roots for not only my career path, but I am sure many others as well. You advised me to attend my first Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA) as a student volunteer and many years later I proudly became President of the organization. Thank you for your support and encouragement. Congratulations and enjoy your well-deserved retirement.

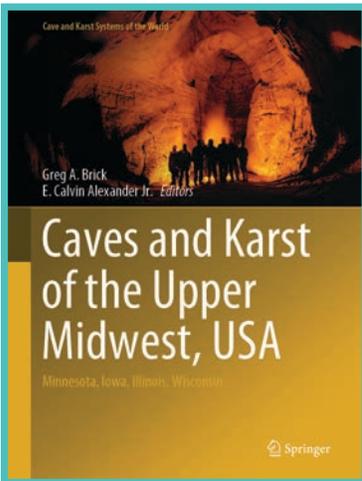
# ALUMNI UPDATE – EMMA OLDEHOEFT (BA, 2020)

After completing my undergraduate geography experience in the summer of 2020, I accepted a position with the City of Belleville as a planner and GIS coordinator. In my position, I work to integrate GIS throughout the municipality, and to make the maps I produce accessible to the public. I also work with residents and businesses to assist them with their development requests, review building plans, and ensure that proposals abide by the zoning code. Additionally I serve as the staff liaison to the Historic Preservation Commission. The City of Belleville was established in 1818, and the designation of three local historic districts and the supervision by the Historic Preservation Commission effectively protects the architectural significance of these neighborhoods.

In January, I enrolled in a masters of geography program at the Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville. I intend to advance my study of GIS, and continue to develop my interest in historical geography. I have gotten incredible support from my professors at UWM, and I am grateful for their continued interest and investment in the success of their students. I moved to southern Illinois when the pandemic began, and I miss Milwaukee and the university culture, but I am excited about the opportunities I've found for personal and professional growth post-graduation.



## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS



Mick Day, Professor Emeritus continues to publish his research findings with a book chapter entitled “Wisconsin Caves and Karst” in the newly published *Caves and Karst of the Upper Midwest USA*, eds. GA Brick and EC Alexander. This chapter extends Professor Day’s publication record to a very impressive 45-year stretch.



### **YES, I WANT TO BECOME A FRIEND OF GEOGRAPHY SUPPORTING STUDENTS OR FACULTY RESEARCH**

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OR

2. Donate on-line at: <https://givetouwm.uwmfdn.org/>. In the drop-down menu, choose “College Letters & Science” and then “Geography.”

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

Nate Wojcicki (undergraduate)

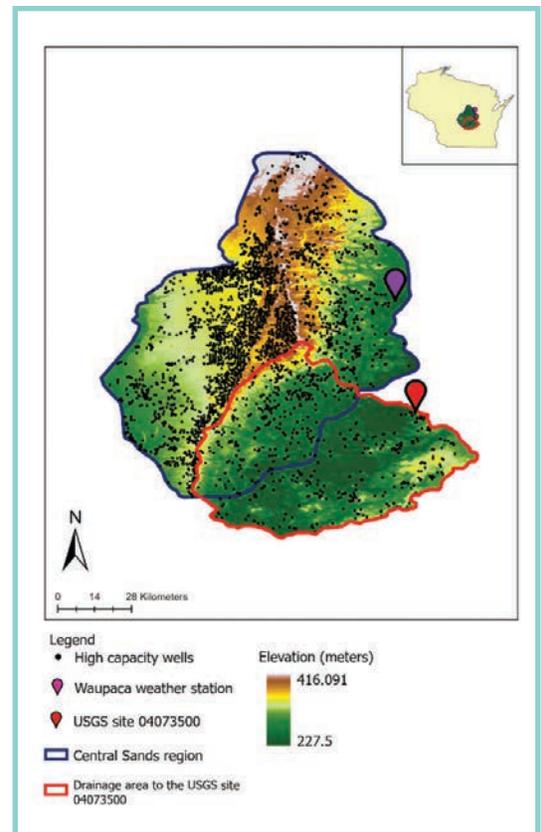


My name is Nate Wojcicki, and I am currently a senior pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography. I am in the Geographical Information track. During the past eight months, I have been working remotely part time as a GIS editor for Utility Data Contractors. In addition to my course work and part time position, I was an undergraduate research student assistant this past summer under the direction of Dr. Choi on the “Streamflow characteristic changes in a catchment with numerous high-capacity wells” project. Through these two positions, I have gained experience with different GIS products in a professional and research setting. I first became exposed to GIS when I took Geography 215: Introduction to Geographic Information Science with Professor Genzmer. I was fascinated with the amount of analysis tools that the GIS programs provide and the various ways you can display geographic data. Taking the GIS classes that the Geography department offers has given me a strong foundation in GIS as they have exposed me to a wide range of geographical data and analysis.

For the past 8 months, I have been working part time as a GIS editor for Utility Data Contractors. Utility Data Contractors is a data organization that completes contract work for utility companies. My job as a GIS editor is to maintain and update sections of electrical circuit maps for one of the companies that has contracted out UDC to do GIS work for them. The project that I am working on deals with schematics, a term used to refer to the technical draws of electrical circuits. In addition to maintaining and updating electrical circuit maps, I document work orders and communicate with the other members on my project. Working as a GIS editor for UDC has allowed me to see how GIS is used in the utility field and it has given me experience using GIS in a professional manner.

The “Streamflow characteristic changes in a catchment with numerous high-capacity wells” project focused on the recent emergence of the numerous high-capacity wells in the Central Sands region, a region located east of the Wisconsin River that spans 1.75 million acres across the counties of Adams, Marathon, Portage, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara, and Wood. I investigated the streamflow and drought characteristics of the Central Sands region in comparison to the United States Geological Survey 04073500 hydrologic boundary, a drainage area that has far less high-capacity wells. During my time as an undergraduate research student assistant, I created two maps displaying the distribution of high-capacity wells in comparison to the region’s elevation and land cover change as well as maintained streamflow data of the two monitoring locations. I was able to find several similarities through the analysis of the maps that I created and the data that was involved within my project. I am excited to be presenting my research findings at this year’s virtual UWM Undergraduate Research Symposium on April 16th!

I am grateful for the direction that Dr. Choi has given me in addition to the other Geography faculty whose classes I have taken during my time as an undergraduate. I look forward to completing my remaining coursework and taking advantage of the opportunities that lie ahead.



## Sarah Ryniker (PhD candidate)

My name is Sarah Ryniker, and I am a Geography PhD candidate working with Dr. Sziarto. The focus of my dissertation is a case study on refugees and place in Clarkston, Georgia. Since I began my academic career, I have been interested in what shapes people's identities, ultimately finding my scholarly home among feminist political geographers who study race, place, and ethnicity. I'm fascinated by learning what aspects of people's cultures become more or less important as they move to new places and have new experiences. During my time at UWM, I've studied refugees and immigrants, exploring different angles and different groups.

About three years ago, I first heard about Clarkston, Georgia. It's a unique 1.4 square mile city on the eastern border of Metro-Atlanta, and only about 45 minutes from where I grew up. Since the 1980s, organizations have placed refugees from over 40 different ethnic groups within the city, transforming it from a once majority-white suburb to a multicultural space. Instantly I was intrigued and excited to learn more. Why was this happening? And why was I only hearing about it now – when I was living in Milwaukee?

Clarkston made national headlines in 2018 when the then-Mayor Ted Terry called it the “Ellis Island of the South” and critiqued President Trump's immigration policies. Since 2018, I've collected data on Clarkston and its refugees as part of my ethnographic fieldwork. Last year, I was finally set to begin my in-person fieldwork. Then COVID-19 hit, and it felt like the world stopped. Immediately, my plans of doing in-person interviews, hanging out with locals, trying different coffee shops, and going to international summer festivals were canceled. I, like many of you, had to begin to rethink my project, because overnight, the world became a different place. I spent May through November doing fieldwork virtually through my computer in Waukesha.



In late November, I got the opportunity to begin my in-person fieldwork, but it still looks very different than I had imagined. Instead of going to the Town Hall once a month, I'm doing discourse analysis of City Council meetings that were conducted over Zoom. Instead of volunteering with a room full of refugees in a small community center, I'm teaching English in my living room to refugees from all over Georgia who now have access to virtual services they didn't have before. Instead of intimate dinners with refugee families, I'm meeting masked faces six-feet apart on park benches.

The city has surprised me as well. As soon as the pandemic hit, the local government and agencies sprung into action, creating mask-mandates and declaring a public health crisis days and weeks before the city of Atlanta or the state of Georgia did. Members of the community have come together in support of the most vulnerable, setting up multiple food drives and mask-drop off stations, and making Clarkston a COVID-19 testing and vaccination site. Even though we can't witness community building in the same ways we could prior to COVID-19, it exists stronger than ever in networks all across the city.

The last year of COVID-19 has brought many changes and affected us all in ways we never thought possible. It's been exhausting, irritating, and upsetting for many of us. The pandemic has illustrated huge gaps in equity and equality. But the last year has also taught me the value of looking out for those less fortunate and the importance of community. While my research plan has been revised over and over and my fieldwork looks very different than I imagined, I never stopped learning or growing. I'm thankful to my committee members and the people I've met along the way during this research project. We don't know how much longer this pandemic will last or what persisting outcomes there

will be. But I encourage you to go exploring in your own communities (safely) and get to know your neighbors. We're stronger together, even if that means we're 6-feet apart.