Greetings from the Chair
By Scott Freundsichuh

Brown, tan, green - what, no white? Those are the colors that I see (or don’t) when I look out of my office window. That can mean only one thing: I am avoiding work. Seriously though, fall semester 2006 is quickly drawing to a close. Students are in the midst of final exams, and thinking about the holiday break and getting a breather after a busy semester. The faculty are most certainly thinking the same thing! The lack of snow is somewhat disheartening to those of us who love wintertime outdoors.

I want to welcome you to our first Annual Alumni Newsletter, a publication meant to connect alumni to students, to faculty, and to UMD. There have been tremendous changes and much growth at UMD over the past few years. There have been many changes in the Department as well. Professor Gordon Levine and office administrator Lottie Hoder both retired two and a half years ago. Gordon was one of my professors when I was an undergraduate student at UMD in the early 80s. He was and continues to be an incredible mentor and dear friend. Gordon is very much enjoying retirement, and is spending a great deal of time traveling, and visiting his three grandchildren. Lottie was like a surrogate mother to many of us during our undergrad years. She had that look… and you all know what look I am talking about…the look that said, “shape up.” Lottie often gave sage advice. Both Gordon and Lottie are truly missed! The geography department has hired several new staff and faculty over the past few years. Stacey Stark joined us 4 years ago as the Director of the Geographic Information Sciences Lab. She has created a state-of-art spatial sciences lab in which all of our cartography, GeoScience and remote sensing courses are taught. Stacey also teaches a natural resources planning with GIS course. Olaf Kulhke also joined the department 4 years ago, and has been instrumental in revamping the field techniques course, and resurrecting the remote sensing and digital imaging course. His energy and enthusiasm have definitely helped to pique student interest in geography. Mike Mageau joined the department full-time three years ago, and teaches the core of the Environmental Studies program. Mike’s excitement about the role of economics and politics in the development and adoption of sustainable energy resources has helped attract many students to the ES program. Linda Klint, our current office administrator joined the geography department two and a half years ago. She has managed, in fairly short order, to bring our office into the 21st Century. Linda has managed to reduce the large volume of paperwork and archived documents by utilizing the University’s many database systems. Maybe someday we will actually be able to get rid of some of our file cabinets and storage! Sutapa Chattopadhyay joined us this fall for four years. She is teaching courses in economic geography, the geography of development, and population geography. We are very pleased that she has joined our department.

The department has experienced significant growth in majors. Both geography and environmental studies have grown substantially in the past 4 years. The number of geography majors has grown from 23 to 69 majors, and the ES program has grown from about 100 majors to 147 today. This growth is the result of our successful out-reach to tell students at UMD all about careers in both geography and environmental studies. We now celebrate National Geography Awareness Week each fall. This provides the department the opportunity to tell faculty, staff and students at UMD about what geographers do. We also provide students more information on career options as they work toward their BA degrees. For example the department now requires an internship preparation course for ES majors that includes discussions on career exploration and graduate school education. This past spring the department surveyed UMD geography alumni who have graduated within the past 10 years. We are using this feedback to inform us as to how we can more effectively prepare graduates for careers. As an example, based on survey results, individual faculty members are looking at ways to integrate more hands-on, practical experiences into their courses. Another example is how to offer a more contemporary curriculum in GIScience. As you can see, we are busy with program assessment and development!

We would love to hear from you: where you are, what you are doing, what’s going on in your life. Drop us a line and fill us in on your life! We also love visits from our alum. I encourage you to stop by the department whenever you find yourself near Gitchi Gummi, and thus UMD.
In Fall 2006, I joined the Department of Geography, UMD, as a visiting assistant professor. I am already enjoying teaching very exciting and challenging courses like Economic Geography, Geographies of Development and South Asia. Prior to joining UMD, I served as an Assistant lecturer at Department of Geography, University of Akron. In August this year, I graduated from the geography department at Kent State University. My PhD dissertation investigates the mechanisms of involuntary migration due to the construction of a multipurpose river valley project, Sardar Sarovar, in western India. My research interests center on the discourses of household dynamics, development, gender, space, scale, tribal migrants and India. In my spare time, I like walking around the neighborhoods, looking for scenic spots and parks. I enjoy painting, reading, hand-crafting, cooking and organizing my space. I look forward to a very fruitful stay in the department, in addition to teaching and research, assisting in student projects and trying to secure research grants.

Pat Farrell is on a well-deserved sabbatical this year. She is spending this time working on analyzing her many soil samples, writing papers, working on a grant with Stacey Stark, and working on her courses. She hopes to travel to Sri Lanka to explore a link between UMD students and the tsunami relief efforts.

On January 11, 2007, I begin an exciting and challenging new 75%-time position as Associate Dean of the Graduate School for UMD. This will be quite a change for the Department, where I have been teaching full-time for over 17 years, and for me personally. I will continue to teach one course per year, probably from amongst my upper-division specialties of Geographic Thought, Political Geography, and Gender, Space and Culture. In the meantime, I continue to enjoy teaching a full complement of courses, including old favorites such as World Regional Geography, Urban Geography & Planning, Geography of United States & Canada, and Introduction & Orientation to Urban & Regional Studies. I also remain deeply committed to and involved in research and teaching on geographical aspects of gender, sexuality, race, class, and “nation”. My collaborations with Michael Brown and Richard Morrill at the University of Washington continue to grow and now include analyses of how the “culture wars” are played out in the production of maps and geographies of elections — a surprising and delightful return (in some ways) to my more quantitative roots. A particular pleasure is seeing so many former students going on to do great things, whether in academia or the wide world beyond academia!

I have spent the first part of this academic year juggling my time between my duties as Chair of the Department, Director of the Environmental Studies program, Editor of Cartographic Perspectives (CP),

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Larry Knopp
Professor
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Scott M. Freundschuh
Associate Professor and Chair
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teaching courses in GIsciences, and my research in spatial cognition. I am currently (attempting to anyway) working on a major overhaul of my courses in an attempt to keep abreast of rapidly changing technologies. Re-tooling with ArcGIS takes up any spare time I wish I had! After 6 years as editor of CP, I am passing on the editorship task to John Krygier at the University of Ohio Welsyan. This transition should be complete by the end of 2006. My plan is to get back into my research on the usability of novel maps and other spatial representations, and on the development of spatial concepts in different size/scale environments. Outside of work I spend a lot of time with my 4 sons; two who are in their last year of college, one who is a junior in high school and one who is a seventh-grader in middle school.

Olaf Kuhlke
Assistant Professor
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I arrived at UMD and the geography department in the fall of 2002. I am a cultural and environmental geographer, and I mostly teach courses in human geography, maps and cartographic methods, urban ecology, field techniques and remote sensing. As a researcher, I spend most of my time examining the various spatial expressions of nationalism in Germany, and speculating about the meaningful organization of spaces created by the Freemasons. I have also published papers in the areas of international migration, and hope to secure some funding in the future to study the effects of the 2004 tsunami on Sri Lankan overseas migrants and their families.

Michael T. Mageau
Assistant Professor
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I currently serve as Director of the Geographic Information Sciences Laboratory (GISL). I have a broad range of GIS skills including project management, programming, method development, computer software maintenance, writing and teaching. As Director of the GISL, I facilitate the implementation of program, equipment and system resources for the growing lab. I am also responsible for securing funding to maintain the lab and to support projects that provide students with hands-on GIS experience, educating faculty in the uses of GIS in many disciplines, and promoting the use of GIS in UMD research and in student curriculum.

Current research projects include: Methodology to Incorporate Historic/ Prehistoric Surface Hydrology layer in Mn/Model Using Existing GIS Data (co-PI Pat Farrell) and Wind Resource Development in the MN Coastal Zone (MN DNR Coastal Program, Co-PI Mike Mageau). Other significant projects with UM Departments include: Nearest Pharmacy for Minnesota Residents, change from 1992 to 2002 (UM Pharmacy) and Lake Superior Trout foraging model using ModelBuilder and Python (UMD Biology).
I joined the department after graduating from the University of Toronto in 1998. I teach courses in physical geography, natural hazards, water processes, and management, as well as environmental applications of GIS. I am also an adjunct faculty in the Water Sciences Program and serving on the graduate committee of several students now. My research interests include hydrology and fluvial geomorphology. I have studied tunnel erosion/piping for over a decade now in the Loess Plateau of China, which produced a series of papers published in Journal of Hydrology, Earth Surface Processes and Landforms, Geomorphology, and International Journal of Sediment Research. In recent years, my research interests have shifted to gully erosion. I am attempting to quantify the gully development of the past 50 years in a semi-arid watershed in the Loess Plateau using aerial photos taken at different times. I also conducted field investigations to explore the mechanisms responsible for gully initiation and development. Eventually, I would like to develop a model to predict gully development and how land use and climate change.

RECENT FACULTY PUBLICATIONS


Freundschuh, S.M. (2005), Cartographic Perspectives Transitions into Adulthood, Cartographic Perspectives Commemorative Issue. Fall.


RECENT FACULTY PUBLICATIONS (CONT.)


NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK

By Scott Freundschuh and Stacey Stark

Each year, the third week in November, the geography department celebrates National Geography Awareness Week (GAW). GAW provides us a vehicle to tell UMD faculty, staff and students about what it is geographers do, and why geography is important. The department cooks something different up each year, and this past November was no exception. This year we had what is becoming the traditional “Geography Question Of the Day” that is distributed to the entire campus; sort of like a campus-wide JENOPARDY with only one category. The focus of the questions this year was distortions in people’s cognitive maps. The following were some of the questions that were asked—answer them yourself, and then check your answers in an atlas:

1) Which of the following three American Cities is furthest West?

a) Los Angeles, CA   b) Spokane, WA   c) Reno, Nevada

2) If you travel exactly West of Madrid, Spain, which major American City do you first encounter?

3) Traveling directly south from Atlanta, Georgia, which S.A. Country do you first encounter?

Each year, National GIS Day is held on the Wednesday of GAW. This year, the Geography Department, along with the Geographic Information Sciences Laboratory and the Minnesota GIS/LIS Consortium, co-sponsored GIS Day.
The theme for this day was Discovering Our Minnesota Landscape Using GIS. Being the trendsetting mavericks that we are, we held this event on Thursday, November 16 rather than on Wednesday. We have been told by a number of statewide GIS folks that we held the largest GIS Day event in Minnesota.

The UMD Ballroom was filled with activity the entire day with GIS and GPS users sharing experiences through demonstrations, posters, online applications, and presentations. Twenty-one regional organizations set-up displays demonstrating how geographic information systems (GIS) technology is used in their organizations and in our community. Participants this year included: Superior GEO-Services, Hartley Nature Center, Marlow GeoServices, Farm Service Agency, MN Geocaching Association, ProWest and Associates, Mn/DOT, UMD Geology, UMD Geography, St Louis County, WLSSD, MN Pollution Control Agency, MN Department of Natural Resources, UMD Natural Resources Research Institute, MN Sea Grant, Arrowhead Regional Development Commission, UMD GIScience Lab, US Army Corp of Engineers.

Over one hundred people filled the seminar room to hear the very popular keynote speaker, Lonnie Dupre. Dupre and his partner recently became the first team to travel to the North Pole in the summer. He shared wonderful photography and stories from the Arctic with an emphasis on the difficult traveling conditions. The team used both GPS and compass to navigate while skiing, kayaking and swimming to the North Pole! The audience also learned how Global Climate change is opening up the Arctic ice and affecting the polar bear’s habitat.

Seven organizations conducted 30-minute presentations on how GIS is used in their organizations. The presentations were well attended by students and community members. Topics included GPS and Geocaching 101 (MN Geocaching Association), Producing Aerial Photography (MN DNR), and Storm Water applications (NRRI). The Farm Service Agency, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, MN Sea Grant and St Louis County presented how they use GIS in their organizations to provide public information and in resource protection.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO 2005-2006
GRADUATES

Geography
Chris Benson
Daniel Benson
Christopher Berg
Katherine Brosch
Peter Fontaine

Matt Gress
Sean Groves
Blair Huggins
Lynnette Johnson
Jonathan Klimer
Cameron Liddell
James Lind Jr.
Aaron Patrick, Cum Laude
Jason Sydekko
Brian Wells

Environmental Studies
Bruce Anderson
Nicole Barg
Chris Benson
Christopher Berg
Travis Brown
Christopher Carlson
Bart Grosz
Axel Hanson
Lindsay Hogfeldt
Anthony Krohm
Cameron Liddell
Kathryn Lindello
Matt Gress,
Lynnette Johnson
John Meyer
Sarah Nelson
Maria Niemiec
Aaron Patrick, Cum Laude
Mitchel Pauly
Kelsey Paxson
Sarah Price
Patricia Pundsack
Jason Sydekko
Benjamin Thompson
Jim Topie
Dana Weegman
Lucas Westerman
Caleb Wolden, Summa Cum Laude

Urban and Regional Studies
Genevieve Anderson
Bonnie Hughes
Benjamin Van Tassel

WELCOME NEW MAJORS
(Fall 2005 to present)
Geography
Heidi Bjorketvedt
Nathan Blair
John Boehrs
Adam Brewer
Jeremiah Baker
Eva Dauma
Steve Gazdik
Ryan Huggett
Nick Kaviuk
Joseph Knapper
Nicholas Lemcke
Eric Ludy
Adam Malay
Marc Malinoski
Anthony Monsoeur
Timothy Reimand
Rianna Reinhard
John Seltz
Andrew Shireman
Andrew Singer
Colin Snowberg
Dane Swanson
Ryan Tessmer
Kody Thurman
Benjamin Verble
Matthew Vonmosch
John Yuccas
Nathan Ziegelmann
Riley Lealos
Joshua Leisen
Nicholas Salo

Environmental Studies
Jamie Banicki
Brian Barklund
Whitney Barrett
Timothy Bertrand
Cole Boden
Emily Carlson
Tyler Carlson
Brandon Christopherson
Forest Clements
Andrew Colton
Brian Curran
Timothy Cyr
Derek Dalen
Austin Danicic
Thomas Deminico
Samantha Dwinnell
Joseph Fracheb
Steve Gazdzik
Joshua Gillson
Nathaniel Goertz
Sadam Griebie
Peter Hauge
Caleah Heim
Brian Henderson
Linnea Johns
Lane Johnson
Jonathon Knapp
Edward Kraft
Eric Labelle
Anthony Lauria
Thomas Lauria
Samuel Lobby
Lindsey Markwardt
Hillary McGown
Shannon McGrath
Scott McIntosh
Amanda Michaels
Nathan Migdal
Ashley Minnerath
Amanda Momeni
Anthony Monsour
Kevin Meyer
Theodore Norgard
Johnathan Osthus
Lindsay Ostman
Eric Pelto
Stacy Peters
Anna Radzak
Heather Rogers
Wyatt Rudenberg
Nicholas Salo
Suzanne Schefcik
Johnathan Schultz
Ross Schumacher
Andy Ahaleen
Anna Singer
Alen Sinykin
Joseph Stark
Jacob Stiner
William Suoja
Raphael Tilier
Zachary Trotter
Heiden Vander
Benjamin Wagner
Robert Weigandt
Ryan Whitney
Gregory Wilson
Colin Wright
Mark Yrj

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS
by Linda Klint

Larry Knopp received the prestigious Albert Tezla Teacher/Scholar Award for 2005-2006. This award is given annually to a faculty member in the College of Liberal Arts or the School of Fine Arts who has an exceptional and effective teaching style that emphasizes the worth of research in a learned discipline and the maturing impact scholarly activity has on the development of human attitudes and values. He uses the stipend associated with the Tezla award to establish a new scholarship-The Emma Goldman Scholarship- in Geography geared to enhancing diversity among the department's students.

Sarah Arlt was the recipient of the 2005-2006 Matti Kaups Scholarship Award. Sarah, with a GPA 3.33, will graduate in the spring of 2007 with BA degrees in both geography and environmental studies. Sara plans to attend graduate school to further her education and training in environmental planning, sustainable development and renewable energy technologies. Her long-term goal is to have a career in urban and residential "green" design that will decrease society's dependence on fossil fuels.

A paper by Pat Farrell, Eric McPhee (a graduate of the geography department) and Paula Pedersen (UMD Department of Psychology) received the National Council for Geographic Education's (NCGE) Best Content Article Award for 2006. The paper Paper vs. Pixel: Effectiveness of Paper versus Electronic Maps to Teach Map Reading Skills in an Introductory Physical Geography Course was published in the Journal of Geography. The award was presented at the NCGE's annual meeting in Lake Tahoe, Nevada.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCES LABORATORY
by Stacey Stark, Director

The Geographic Information Sciences Laboratory functions as a center for Geographic Information System (GIS) education, research, and contracts. GISL conducts workshops and services for University departments and to the general public. One mission of GISL is facilitating projects that demonstrate different uses of GIS and provide students with hands-on experience. Projects include education, sponsored research, GIS consulting, and GIS services (data editing, cartography, printing). Services can also be provided for Internet Map Service sites and data network storage.
in the GIS component of any project. Technical services from data editing and GIS method development to cartography and project documentation are performed by GISL staff. GISL currently employs three students, two are geography majors.

- **UMD departments currently using GISL include:**
  - Geography, Sociology/Anthropology, History, Geology, Biology, Pharmacy, Environmental Studies, and Recreation.
- **Current funded research includes:**
  - Pharmacy Accessibility Analysis for Minnesota Residents --Stacey Stark (GISL), Jon Schommer (UM Pharmacy)
  - Methodology to Incorporate Historic/Prehistoric Surface Hydrology layer in Mn/Model-- Stacey Stark (GISL), Pat Farrell (Geography), Sue Mulholland (Archaeology)
  - Interactive Web Mapping for Hartley Nature Center--Stacey Stark (GISL), Paul Perinchef (Geography)
  - Lake Trout foraging model using ArcGIS ModelBuilder and Python scripting-- Stacey Stark (GISL), Beth Holbrook (Biology)

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THE CENTER OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
by Michael Mageau, Director

The Geography Department is home to UMD’s Center for Sustainable Community Development (CSCD). The CSCD is directed by Mike Mageau, and is currently staffed by Nicole Hynum, Jannelle Stauff and Melissa Wenker. The mission of the CSCD is to understand how communities can transition from global dependence toward community self-reliance by designing and implementing economically attractive, as well as socially and environmentally sustainable local energy production systems.

Three current projects at the CSCD include: (1) the development of a computer simulation model to aid communities in developing renewable energy (electricity, space and water heating and transportation fuels) production systems. The model includes a wide variety of emerging renewable energy technologies, and allows communities to determine the social, environmental and economic benefits associated with any combination of these new technologies; (2) the development of a wind resource map for Northeastern MN using GIS, and (3) ongoing work on various wind development projects with the following communities:

Proctor School District, North Shore Community School, Duluth, Clover Valley, Finland, Lutsen Ski Resort, Grand Marais and Grand Portage.

Projects at the CSCD are supported by the following funders: US Department of Energy (DOE), MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Minnesota Project, University of MN Funders: Northeastern Minnesota Clean Energy Resource Team (CERT), Northeastern Minnesota Sustainable Development Partnership (NMSDP), Council on Public Engagement (COPE), Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP), College of Liberal Arts Technology Fund, Initiative on Energy and the Environment (IREE), Center for Community and Regional Research.

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ALUMI SUPPORT FOR GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND URBAN REGIONAL STUDIES
by Scott Freundschuh

I am often asked by alumni, “How can I support the geography department?” Let me share several ways that you can support students and faculty. The geography department has several gift/scholarship funds. In 1998, the Kaups family created the Matti Kaups Geography Scholarship in memory of Professor Kaups. This scholarship is given annually to recognize outstanding academic achievement in Geography.

This past spring, Larry Knopp along with the Department’s of Geography and Women’s Studies established a scholarship in honor of Emma Goldman. Goldman, whose feminist work with Russian geography Pyotr Kropotkin, has inspired generations of women, feminists and geographers. This scholarship is given annually to students whose achievements embody the ethics, values and accomplishments of Emma Goldman.

The geography department has a general fund, which is used to support field trips for geography courses, and for special needs of the department that directly support student learning and achievement.

If you would like more information about making a gift, please contact me at sfreunds@d.umn.edu or (218) 726-6226, or contact our Development Officer Maryann Soleim (msoleim@d.umn.edu) toll free 1-866-726-7110, or go online at www.d.umn.edu/development/waystogive.html

Thank you for considering a gift to all things geography.
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