

Geography News

Volume 12, Issue 1

September 2016

James Leonard,
Author/Editor

Inside this issue:

Graduates 2014-2016	1
Faculty and staff news	2
Online degrees	3
Reminders	3
Student research	3-4
Scholar athlete	3

Geography Graduates 2014-2016

The Geography Department awarded degrees to thirteen undergraduates and nine graduate students in the last two academic years (2012-2013 and 2013-2014). Some of these graduates are already enjoying successful careers, while others are pursuing advanced degrees. After each graduate, we list his/her current status, if known.

1. Nicholas Adkins (BS 2016) – Marshall University Geography Department master's program
2. Tanner Beckett (BA 2015) - Cenergy, LLC
3. Delbert Cannoy (MS 2015)
4. Christopher Carr (BS 2016)
5. David Copeland (BA 2016) - Marshall University Geography Department master's program
6. Megan (McCrosky) Click (MA 2015) – Assistant Professor, Mountwest Community and Technical College
7. Joseph Fitzwater (BS 2016) - Assignment Editor at WOWK 13 NEWS, Charleston, WV
8. Chris Hale (BS 2015)
9. Jessica Hutchinson (BA 2016)
10. Jialun Jiao (MA 2015) – GIS Analyst, City of Richmond Real Estate Assessor's Office, Richmond, VA
11. Lora Meadows (MS 2015) – Geographic Information Science and Technology Group, Oak Ridge National Laboratory
12. Linda McGuffey (MA 2016) - IT Consultant, Marshall University
13. Mike Michael (MA 2016) - WV Department of Highways, Charleston, WV
14. Aaron Nelson (MS 2015)
15. Rashad Nisar (BA 2015)
16. Heidi Oberlin (BS 2016)
17. Alexandria Phares (BA 2016)
18. Andrew Pritt (BS 2015)
19. Kiersten Rose (BA 2015) - Graduate Student at Kobe University, Osaka, Japan
20. Christopher Shaffer (MS 2015)
21. Amanda Wallace (BS 2016)
22. Douglas Wiley (MS 2016) - Cabell County Solid Waste Authority, Barboursville, WV



Faculty and staff news



Dr. **Kevin Law** presented a paper at the 2016 AAG in San Francisco entitled, "An Alternative Atlantic Hurricane Classification Index."

Professor **Kevin Law** made two presentations since the last newsletter. The first was a poster presentation at the 2015 AAG in Chicago entitled, "Developing Statistical Climatological Track Forecasts for Atlantic Tropical Cyclones from Major Teleconnection Interactions." The second was a paper presentation at the 2016 AAG in San Francisco entitled, "An Alternative Atlantic Hurricane Classification Index." Dr. Law has authored a book chapter entitled, "A Case Study of Atmospheric Dynamics and Thermodynamics in Derechos and the Societal Impacts" that has been recently accepted for the forthcoming book *Atmospheric Hazards*. He has been serving as the chair of both the CoLA and University Curriculum Committees the last two years. He attended the Association of American State Climatologists meeting summer 2015 in Cape May, NJ and the year before that in Skamania, Washington. He is developing GEO425/525 Climatology and GEO615 Thoughts and Methods in Geography as online courses.



Best wishes to Dr. **Joshua Hagen** in his new position as Dean of Arts and Sciences at Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD.

Dr. **Joshua Hagen** has resigned from Marshall to take a position as Dean of Arts and Sciences at Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD. We wish him all the best! As a tribute to his contributions to Marshall, we'd like to mention his activities over the last two years. He is nearly finished writing his next book titled *Building Nazi Germany: Place, Space, Architecture, and Ideology*. Dr. Hagen also published several articles and book chapters, including:

- "Shaping Public Opinion through Architecture and Urban Design: Perspectives on Ludwig I and His Building Program for a 'New Munich'." in *Central European History*
- "Social Engineering, National Demography, and Political Economy in Nazi Germany: Gottfried Feder and His New Town Concept" and appeared in *Hitler's Geographies* (2016)
- "Wie Rothenburg das Kleinod der deutschen Vergangenheit geworden ist" and appeared in the book *Rothenburg ob der Tauber: Geschichte der Stadt und ihres Umlandes* (2016) edited by Horst F. Rupp and Karl Borhardt.

Dr. Hagen also published four book reviews with

a fifth soon to appear. He published a second edition of his annotated bibliography on "Borders and Boundaries" for *Oxford Bibliographies in Geography*.

Dr. Hagen also presented his work several times during the last year. He spoke at the University of Tennessee on "Totalitarianism, Town Planning, and the Building of Nazi Germany," at the University of Kansas on the "The Building and Buildings of Nazi Germany: Totalitarianism and the Calculation of Space, Place, and Society," and at the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers where he presented two papers: "Totalitarianism, Settlement Planning, and the Building of Nazi Germany: Planning for the New Town in the Third Reich" and "Borders and Boundaries, Nodes and Networks, Systems and Assemblages: Past and Present Perspectives on the Political Organization of Space and Place."

Dr. **Anita Walz** had her hands full mentoring all undergraduate capstone students through two semesters of research and presentations. She has also now accepted advising duties for all distance education majors in the department. She is developing GEO620 into a hybrid online course.

Kris Standifur, department secretary retired in 2014 and was replaced briefly by two others until a permanent replacement was found in **Dana Phillips** in late 2015.

Dr. **Godwin Djietror** was granted promotion to Associate Professor and Tenure in May 2016, but decided to retire from higher education in August.

Professor **James Leonard** has received renewed funding this year (2015-2016) from the WV State Historic Preservation Office (\$10,000 funded). Two contracts with the Wayne County, WV Assessor were funded in 2016 (\$3,000 and \$3,000). In support of the geography online degree completion, Dr. Leonard developed two new ecourses: GEO440/540 Spatial Statistics and GIS; and GEO110 Basic GIS. He is developing GEO429/529 Principles of GIS 2—Vector Analysis and GEO112 Introduction to GPS as online courses.

First online-only students graduate!

Heidi Oberlin and Amanda Wallace became the first students to finish the degree in Geography online. Over the few years, we've add even more electives. Currently, students can meet all Geography B.A. major requirements online and can meet B.S. requirements by transferring in some credits. We have about a dozen students who are online-only for fall 2016. These students tend have many college credits, perhaps an associate's degree, but want a full bachelor's in Geography.

Plans are underway to provide enough online electives for a complete BS degree at the undergraduate level (without the need to transfer BS credits from another institution) and a complete MA degree at the graduate level by fall 2017.

C-USA Scholar Athlete

Conference USA Faculty Athletics Representatives announced their selections of the 2015-16 Scholar Athlete of the Year Awards in July 2016. ross-Country award winner (2014, 2016) from the Geography Department, Alexandria Phares!

Student research (continued on page 4)

Both undergraduate and graduate students continue to produce capstone and master's thesis research. **Dr. Walz** shepherded seven undergraduate students who produced capstone papers presented at the April 2014-15 College of Liberal Arts conference:

- Kiersten Rose – Aging in Japan: the Result of Changing Moral Values
- Tanner Beckett – Funding Private Historically Preserved Sites in West Virginia
- Andrew Pritt – Do Unto Others: An Investigation into the Link between Religion and Violent Crime
- Nicholas Adkins – Modeling North Atlantic Hurricanes and Forecasting Accumulated Cyclone Energy using Teleconnections
- Chris Hale – An Analysis of Poverty's Role in Teen Birthrates in the United States

Two undergraduate students finished their capstone research in fall 2015 under **Dr. Walz'** direction:

- Mike A. Michael – West Virginia's Rural Appalachia: An Educational Disadvantage?

Reminders for students

All students should take GEO 426/526 Principles of GIS (offered every fall/spring) at the earliest possible time, preferably during their sophomore year for undergrads or first year for graduates. The course will be a useful pre-requisite to complete before many advanced senior/graduate courses in GIS.

GEO440/540 is now the required statistics course for geography majors beginning fall 2016.

Undergrad seniors must enroll in GEO498 Senior Capstone I in Fall AND GEO499 Senior Capstone II in Spring. Students must have completed GEO426 and GEO440 (or equivalent) before enrolling. Contact Dr. Walz for more information.

Graduate students should enroll in GEO615 during the first fall semester of graduate studies and GEO616 during the first spring. These courses are the foundation of the master's degree.

Tightening budgets mean fewer electives in Geography and potentially longer waits between core requirements. Students should enroll in most/all Geography courses offered each semester in order to accumulate enough credit hours to meet graduation requirements. Graduate students should be especially aware of the Graduate College requirement that at least half of all degree credit hours must be at the 600-level. Thus, graduate students should take all 600-level GEO courses when offered.

Students continue to find rewarding internships and careers in Geography.



The 2016 SEDAAG Conference will be in Columbia, SC on the University of South Carolina campus (above) November 20-22; the 2017 AAG Conference will be in Boston (below) April 5-9.



**Marshall University Geography
Department**

Harris Hall 204
One John Marshall Drive
Huntington, WV 25755

Phone: 304.696.4364
Fax: 304.696.2506
Email: geography@marshall.edu

[www.marshall.edu/
geography](http://www.marshall.edu/geography)



Student research (continued from page 3)

- Amanda J. Wallace – Examining Earthquake Danger and Preparedness in Los Angeles County California

In April 2016, **Dr. Walz** advised additional capstone projects presented at the College of Liberal Arts conference:

- Alexandria Phares - Reality of Refuge: Shifting Migration Patterns and Living Standards of Afghan Refugees
- Chris Carr - The Hidden Correlation between Internet and Migrant Growth
- Nicholas Dino - Poverty and Education: The Difference Wealth Makes in School
- Jessica Hutchinson - A Crisis among Others: Heroin, West Virginia's Latest Struggle
- Steven Curry - How Rust Belt Cities React to Changing Economic Times
- Heather Pribble - Media Bias and Image Rebranding in Grand Rapids, MI
- David Copeland - Disunity of Football (Soccer) in a Unified Germany
- Heidi Oberlin - Social Injustice: Does Low Income Decrease Tornado Safety and Preparedness?-How Communities Cope
- Joseph Fitzwater - Hurricane Prediction: A More Modernized System for a More Modern Time
- Shaun Morris - The Spread of White-Nose Syndrome in Bats Throughout the United States, 2007-2016

Dr. Walz served as master's thesis advisor for Lora Meadows (2015)—A Comprehensive Study of the Historical Blue Sulphur Hotel Resort Through Remote Sensing, Photogrammetry, and GIS—and Aaron Nicole Nelson (2016)—Stable Money: An Evaluation of Political Stability and U.S. Bilateral Aid in Latin America. **Dr. Law** served as master's thesis advisor for Delbert Cannoy (2015)—Green Gold- a Cannabis Sativa L. Lucis Suitability Analysis for West Virginia . **Dr. Djietror** served as master's thesis advisor for Doug Wiley (2016)—Assessing the Impact of a Supermarket Shuttle Model on Supermarket Access Within Cabell County.