

**Marshall University Geography
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Student research (continued from page 1)

- Zachary **Ball**, "Spatial Analysis of Water Pollution and Point Sources in West Virginia"
- Lakin **Johnson**, "An Analysis of Season Changes in West Virginia 1920-2009"
- Chris **Cannoy**, "Natural Fracking Earthquakes"
- Veronica **Ross**, "The Relationship of Education Attainment and Sector Employment With West Virginia Income Levels"
- Aaron **Nelson**, Human Rights and U.S. Aid Influences in Latin America"
- Doug **Wiley**, Examining Food Security in Huntington"

Jared **Figgins** (adviser Dr. Hagen) found in his 2013 master's thesis research, titled "Political Party Affiliation, Regional Variation and the Demographic Correlates of Euroscepticism on the Isle of Great Britain," that the most Eurosceptic region was the West Midlands and the least Eurosceptic was Scotland. Seth **Davidson's** (adviser Dr. Leonard) 2013 master's thesis explored "Persistent Culinary Traditions in Rural Southern West Virginia," and concluded that despite the largely homogenized national cuisine, Southern West Virginia maintains a unique regional rural food tradition. Yisha **Shi's** (adviser Dr. Walz) 2013 master's thesis was titled "A Remote Sensing and GIS based Wetlands Analysis in Canaan Valley, West Virginia."

Dr. Walz' GEO499 Field Research capstone students presented their research at the COLA Undergraduate Research and Creativity Conference in April 2014. Students and their projects were:

- Rashad **Nisar**, "Kashmir: A Conflict between India and Pakistan"
- Linda Katherine **McGuffey**, "Moving on Out: Why People Leave Appalachia"
- Zach **McLain**, "Concentrated Poverty and Violent Crime"

Britt **Arcadipane** (adviser Dr. Hagen) examined the effect of three predictor variables—poverty, parental education levels, and secondary school socio-economic status—on educational attainment in this 2014 master's thesis "West Virginia's Low Percentage of Population With at Least a Four-Year College Education." Daniel **Kirby's** (adviser Dr. Walz) 2014 master's thesis was titled "Effective Treatment Options for Acid Mine Drainage in the Coal Region of West Virginia."

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Geography News

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James Leonard,
Author/Editor

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Geography Graduates 2012-2014

The Geography Department awarded degrees to eleven 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. Arcadipane, Britt (MS, 2014)
2. Ball, Zachary (BS, 2014)
3. Cannoy, Chris (BS, 2013) - MU Geography Department master's program
4. Davidson, Seth (MS, 2013) - GIS administrator at Northeast Natural Energy in Charleston, WV
5. Epperly, Randy (MA, 2012) - WV Department of Highways, Charleston, WV
6. Figgins, Jared (MS, 2013) - GIS Analyst at the Piketon, OH Uranium Enrichment Plant
7. Johnson, Aaron (BS, 2012)
8. Johnson, Lakin (BS, 2013) - MU Geography Department master's program
9. Kirby, Daniel (MS, 2014)
10. Lee, Taylor (MA, 2013) - Biological Field Technician, Western Ecosystems Technology, Inc., Greenbrier County, WV
11. McGuffey, Linda (BS, 2014)
12. McLain, Zach (BA, 2014)
13. Nelson, Aaron (BS, 2013) - MU Geography Department master's program
14. Payne, Amanda (MS, 2012) - Archaeologist, WV Department of Highways, Charleston, WV
15. Ross, Veronica (BA, 2013)
16. Shi, Yisha (MS, 2013) - pursuing Ph.D. opportunities
17. Stephens, Ashley (MS, 2013) - US Army Cops of Engineers, Huntington, WV
18. Stout, Jerrod (BA, 2013) - GIS Analyst for Gulfand Appalachian Energy, Inc., Paintsville, KY
19. Streeter, Jessica (BS, 2012) - Custom Alloy Corporation
20. Wiley, Doug (BA, 2013) - MU Geography Department master's program

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 2013 College of Liberal Arts conference:

- Jerrod **Stout**, "Is There a Correlation Between States' Economic Activity and Per Capita Energy Consumption?" (Continued on page 4)



Faculty and staff news



Congratulations to Dr. Hagen, Recipient of the 2014 Distinguished Artists and Scholars Awards, Senior Award in Arts, Business, Education, Humanities, and Social Sciences!

Dr. Godwin Djietror presented his research on unsafe buildings in Huntington, WV at the 2014 Appalachian Studies Association conference.

Professor **Joshua Hagen** produced a series of blog posts for Oxford University Press on contemporary international events, including maritime disputes in Southeast Asia and the Syrian civil war. Professor Hagen's book titled *Borders: A Very Short Introduction* appeared in late 2012 through Oxford University Press. He also spent much of the summer of 2012 conducting research in Germany, with brief side trips to Belgium, France, Luxembourg, and Poland, sponsored by the Fulbright Scholar Program and the German Academic Exchange Service. Dr. Hagen attended the 2014 AAG meeting in Tampa, where he presented a paper titled "Narrating the Nation through Urban Space," and co-organized/co-chaired three paper sessions on that general theme. He also collaborated with Professor Leonard and graduate student Aaron Nelson on a paper titled "Demographic Trends in Appalachia and Implications for Enrollments in Higher Education: The Case of Marshall University," presented at the 2014 Appalachian Studies Association Conference held at Marshall. Professor Hagen continued his work with the West Virginia Geographic Alliance on providing professional development opportunities for K-12 teachers through a grant funded by the Benedum Foundation and the National Geographic Society. Research moved along as well but not as fast as Dr. Hagen would have liked. He co-authored two articles for a special issue of *Nationalities Papers*, titled "From Socialist to Post-Socialist Cities: Narrating the Nation through Urban Space" and "City of Felt and Concrete: Negotiating Cultural Hybridity in Mongolia's Capital of Ulaanbaatar." Additionally, Professor Hagen contributed a chapter titled "Social Engineering, National Demography, and Political Economy: Planning a New Town in Nazi Germany" for the forthcoming book titled *Hitler's Geographies* through University of Chicago Press. Finally, after being in the works for over a decade, Professor Hagen hopes to finish writing his next book, *Building Nazi Germany: Place, Space, Architecture, and Ideology*, over the summer.

Dr. **Anita Walz** organized a poster session at the 2014 MU Earth Day celebration and her GEO620 class presented their posters (8 total) there. Last

fall, Dr. Walz was certified by the Quality Matters Program as a Peer Reviewer for Higher Education and for K-12 classes. This spring she reviewed her first course, a GIS course for Oregon State University.

Kris Standifur took on new responsibilities administering the two external contracts, tracking student work hours and pay. Mrs. Standifur has been with the University 38 years, an accomplishment in itself. She had another great grandchild (!) and her grand-daughter graduated from college with her Bachelor's degree.

Dr. **Godwin Djietror** and Chris Cannoy presented their research on the socioeconomic correlates of the occurrence of unsafe buildings in Huntington, West Virginia (2000-2010) at the 2014 Appalachian Studies Conference held at Marshall University. Dr. Djietror has also received a Summer Research Award to study the decline of the periodic market at Ada Foah in the Dangme East District of Ghana.

Dr. **Kevin Law** was a panelist at the Science, Technology, and Research (STaR) symposium in Morgantown in fall 2013. At the symposium, he gave a presentation entitled, "History and Forecast of Climate Change". Prof. Law mentored meteorology minor, Shawn Cheeks, at the Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol 2014. Dr. Law presented a poster entitled, "An Investigation of the Surface and Upper-Level Conditions Influencing the Snowfall Associated with Post-Tropical Cyclone Sandy," to the Association of American Geographers' (AAG) conference in Tampa 2014. Geographer majors Joseph Fitzwater and Shawn Cheeks were co-presenters. Over spring break 2014, Dr. Law took meteorology students to the Ohio Severe Weather Symposium in Columbus, OH.

Professor **James Leonard** co-presented (with Dr. Hagen and graduate student Aaron Nelson) a paper at the Appalachian Studies Conference in March 2014. Dr. Leonard participated in a course to develop his First Year seminar course for fall 2014. He also created a map of historic Egypt/Sudan for inclusion in: Mills, David. 2014. *Dividing the Nile: Egypt's Economic Nationalists in the*

Department happenings

On April 30, 2014, the Geography Department hosted a storm spotter training course by the National Weather Service in Charleston. The course was open to the public and approximately 50 people were in attendance.

Because classes are often held in our main GIS Lab (Harris Hall 202), we've added a GIS lab annex in Harris Hall 238 with four workstations.

Over the past year and a half, we've updated our online course offerings. Now, students can meet all Geography B.A. major requirements online. We have perhaps a half-dozen students who are online-only as of 2014. These students tend to have many college credits, perhaps an associate's degree, but want a full bachelor's in Geography.

Internships

A great way to prepare for life after college and a successful career in Geography is to complete an internship with a local firm or government agency. Firms and agencies often contact us looking for interns. Contact a faculty member for more information about internships in your area of interest. Here are some recent examples:

- Natural Resource Partners, Huntington, WV
- City of Ashland, KY
- WV State Historic Preservation Office, Charleston, WV
- WV Department of Environmental Protection, Charleston, WV
- National Science Foundation, Atlanta, GA
- Oakridge National Laboratory, Tennessee
- US Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington
- WV Department of Highways, Huntington
- Coal River Group, Tornado, WV
- Columbia University, NY: GIS/Geography including stipend and lodging

Faculty news (continued)

Sudan 1918-56, Cairo, Egypt: American University in Cairo Press. Dr. **Leonard** has received renewed funding this year from the WV Department of Environmental Protection to continue the Digital Mapping Project called GeoMine. The project has employed around 15 different students part-time for three years digitizing paper mine maps. In 2014, the WV State Historic Preservation Office signed a Digital Mapping agreement with the Department to hire one to two student interns for similar work digitizing their data for use in their GIS database.

Reminders for students

Department Welcome will be Wednesday, August 27, 2014 at 3:00 pm (subject to change) in Harris Hall 237. All majors (undergrad and grad) are expected to attend. This is a great time to get to know other students and professors. Guest speakers will include successful graduates of the program with ideas for careers in Geography. Current curriculum, policies, and requirements will be covered.

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.

A statistics course is a core requirement for undergraduates. We recommend Math 225. Statistical proficiency is also required for graduate students. See the graduate catalog for more information.

Undergrad seniors must enroll in GEO499 Capstone Field Research in Fall AND Spring. Please contact Dr. Walz for more information. Grad students must enroll in GEO615 in Fall and GEO616 in Spring.

Student accomplishments

Kiersten Rose was accepted into Kansaid Gaidai University's Asian Studies Program for Fall 2014-2015 in Osaka, Japan. She plans on staying the whole year, if granted an extension of stay.

In February 2014, Shawn Cheeks and Dr. **Law** attended the American Meteorological Society national conference in Atlanta, where Shawn presented his Storm Information Report Emergency Network (SIREN) mobile application.

Students continue to find rewarding internships and careers in Geography.



The 2014 SEDAAG Conference will be in Athens, GA on the University of Georgia campus (above) November 23-25; the 2015 AAG Conference will be in Chicago (below) April 21-25.

