

Geography News

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Author/Editor

Inside this issue:

Student news	1
Faculty news	2
Graduates	3
Student interns	3
New equipment, courses	3
GIS/RS certification	3
Reminders	3
Governor speaks at GIS conference	4
Student research	4

Students pursue internships and careers

Geography students have had great success securing internships and new careers this year. Two Marshall University geography majors have been selected for summer internships with Engineering Perfection PLLC and the National Weather Service in Charleston, W.Va. The interns are **Ben Stratton** (right), a junior from Hurricane, and **Bob Maynard** (left), a junior from Clifton and a recipient of a Marshall University Trailblazer Scholarship funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation. They will help develop flood inundation maps using Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) for the state of West Virginia with the aim of providing better visualization for real-time flooding.



Carrie Haight, graduate student, will begin a year-long internship with the City of Huntington Planning and Zoning department in fall. The internship is partially funded by the City of Huntington and pays a full tuition waiver for the entire academic year 2011-2012 and a stipend. This internship position was filled last year by **Daniel Grafton** who graduated in May 2011.

Jake Keaton, a junior, has been accepted for an undergraduate internship with Chesapeake Energy. Chesapeake Energy is the second largest natural gas producer in the United States. Its eastern headquarters are in Charleston, WV. **Chad Pyles** (BS, 2010) is a GIS Analyst with Chesapeake Energy in Charleston. He has completed a graduate internship with Chesapeake this spring. **Josh Krumski** (MA, 2010) is also employed by Chesapeake in their Big Flat, NY office.

Vanessa Cragle, a non-major seeking her GIScience graduate certificate, will intern this summer with MU Physical Plant mapping water drainage on campus. This mapping project will bring Marshall in compliance with EPA MS4 regulations concerning storm water management. **Dominique Norman** will intern this summer and fall with the Nature Conservancy, Arlington, VA. She will be analyzing GIS datasets of ecoregions and assisting with web mapping, GIS data creation, and cartography. **Libby Callicoat** (MS, 2010) has accepted a position as a part-time Geography instructor at Midlands Technical College, West Columbia, SC.

Amanda Payne accepted a position as an archaeologist with WV Department of Highways. **Ashley Ostrow** received her BS in Geography in 2010 and is employed by the US Army Corps of Engineers in Huntington. She has just completed a graduate internship there. **Sara Cremeans**, **Deloris Musick**, **Bob Maynard**, and **Nathaniel Williamson** have applied for internships with the WV Department of Highways, Huntington District for summer GPS data collection. **Marla Johnson** will intern with the Rahall Transportation Institute this summer and next academic year. **Jackie Crawford** has accepted a position with MedExpress in Morgantown, WV.

Faculty News



Godwin Djietror, Ph.D., our newest faculty member, replaces the retired Larry Jarrett.

Welcome to our newest faculty member Dr. **Godwin Djietror**! Dr. Djietror has devoted a lot of time to revising the Department's planning courses. His teaching responsibilities have included Economic Geography, Urban Geography, Geographical Research, Planning, and the Geography of Sub-Saharan Africa. He is working closely with officials of the City of Huntington to identify study units of the City in order to embark upon formally studying a number of city characteristics. He is currently collaborating with the Unsafe Buildings Commission to clean the data on demolished and/or unsafe buildings in the City, and plans on devoting the summer months to analyzing their spatial distribution. His joint effort with Dr. James Leonard and Mr. James Baldwin, the City Planner, has resulted in the City of Huntington providing \$6,000 to support a paid Graduate Assistant intern position for a Geography student to work on a variety of critical needs related to urban planning and the revision of the City's comprehensive plan.

Kris Standifur, administrative secretary senior, has been with the institution 35 years. She was reelected to Staff Council in April. She spent the past year updating her job duties via training.

Dr. **Joshua Hagen** spent much of the year adjusting to new responsibilities as chair of the department. Between meetings and paperwork, Dr. Hagen published two articles this year. The first article, co-authored with Alexander Diener, is forthcoming in *Eurasian Geography and Economics* titled " 'Russia, But Not Quite Russia': The Geopolitics of the Kaliningrad Exclave." The second article, titled "Theorizing Scale in Critical

Plane-Name Studies," appeared in *Acme: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies* 10:1, 23-27. Dr. Hagen is looking forward to the summer break to resume work on his next two book projects: *Borders: A Very Short Introduction* with Oxford University Press and *Building Nazi Germany: Place, Space, Architecture and Ideology* with Rowman & Littlefield.

Dr. **Kevin Law** as West Virginia State Climatologist began the 2010-11 academic year by attending the annual Association of American State Climatologists (AASC) meeting in South Lake Tahoe, CA in July where he gave the WV state report. He also served as the WV State Representative for the Southeast Division of the Association of American Geographers (SEDAAG). This past year it was held in Birmingham, Alabama. Dr. Law was awarded a \$3,000 grant for helping to create the West Virginia Monthly Climate Summaries. These summaries are available on the West Virginia State Climate Office website (www.marshall.edu/met) and via the Northeast Regional Climate Center. In addition to these monthly publications, he has had two recent publications. "The Climate of West Virginia" was published in the March/April 2011 edition of *Weatherwise* while "The Impact of Oceanic Heat Content on the Rapid Intensification of Atlantic Hurricanes" was published in *Recent Hurricane Research- Climate, Dynamics, and Societal Impacts*.

Dr. **James Leonard** has written an NSF grant entitled GIS Across the Curriculum to be submitted 27 May. The grant would fund faculty development to create GIS lesson plans across many disciplines on campus. Dr.

Leonard co-authored an article with Dr. Law entitled Spatial and Temporal Variations in West Virginia's Precipitation, 1931-2000. The article was submitted for publication in the *Southeastern Geographer*.

(continued page 4)

Recent faculty photo (from left):

Dr. Kevin Law,

Dr. James

Leonard, Kris

Standifur, Dr.

Anita Walz, Dr.

Godwin Djietror,

Dr. Joshua Hagen



New equipment, courses

The Provost's office has provided funding for a new HP DesignJet large format printer and 4 Trimble Juno GPS units. Both purchases are sorely needed updates for our aging equipment. The HP printer is used to print posters and maps for GEO420 Capstone research, GEO426/526 Principles of GIS and GEO429/529 GIS Vector Analysis. The new GPS units will be integrated into GEO201 Intro to GPS, GEO426/526, and special topics courses taught by Larry Evans on mobile geospatial technologies.

Graduate assistants have been assigned to teach two exciting undergraduate courses—GEO110 Basic GIS and GEO201. Both are friendly introductions to technologies and tools used for geography majors in the classroom and workplace.

In fall 2011, two special topics GIS courses will be offered for the first time at Marshall. GEO480/580 LIDAR and Active Remote Sensing will be taught by Larry Evans of the WV Department of Environmental Protection. This is an advanced remote sensing course. GEO481/581 Web GIS Programming will be taught by Mike Shank, also from WVDEP. This course will lead students familiar with GIS from setting up a web server and publishing maps to customization.

Our Graduates

The Geography Department awarded degrees to four undergraduates and seven graduate students this academic year:

- **Libby Callicoa** (MS) - thesis title: "Mapping Energy Poverty in Huntington, West Virginia;" advisor Dr. Walz
- **Mark Collins** (MS)
- **Jacqueline Crawford** (MA)
- **Zack Fraley** (BS)
- **Daniel Grafton** (MS)
- **Josh Krumski** (MA)
- **Dustin Lowers** (MA)
- **Lora Meadows** (BA)
- **F. Britt McNew** (BA)
- **Ashley Ostrow** (BS) - Clagg Scholarship winner
- **David Rucker** (MA)

GIS/RS certification

The Geography Department is revising its curriculum to help students in Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing meet certification requirements and pass exams for professional certification.

ESRI has introduced a new technical certification program. Dr. **Leonard** attended their exam preparation course in May 2011 to gather information about the



esri

program. The certification requires passing an exam. Ask Dr. Leonard or see <http://training.esri.com/certification/index.cfm> for more information.

The American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) offers provisional certification to students. This certification requires passing an exam and experience. Ask Dr. Leonard or see <http://www.asprs.org/> for more information.

Student may also wish to begin the process of certification as a GIS Professional.

Ask Dr. Leonard or see <http://gisci.org> for more information.



Reminders for Students

Department Welcome will be Wednesday, August 24, 2011 at 2:00 pm. All majors (undergrad and grad) are expected to attend. Besides free refreshments, current curriculum and requirements will be covered. 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.



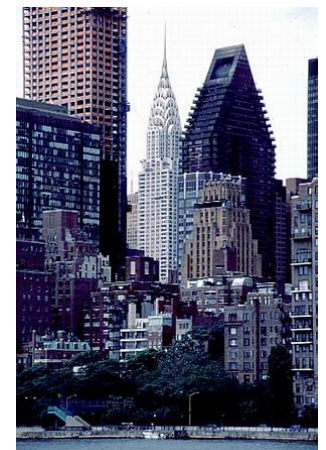
All students should take GEO 426/526 Principles of GIS (offered every fall/spring) and GEO 440/540 Quantitative Methods (offered every spring) at the earliest possible time, preferably during their sophomore or juniors years for undergrads or first year for graduates. If possible, undergraduates should take Math 225. This course will satisfy the university's general education math requirement and provide important foundational skills for GEO 440. Undergrad seniors must enroll in GEO420 Field Research in Fall 2011 and Spring 2012. Grad students must enroll in GEO615 Fall 2011, and GEO616 in Spring 2012.



A fully certified GIS Professional requires both education and experience.



The 2011 SEDAAG Conference will be in Savannah, GA (above) November 20-22; the 2012 AAG Conference will be in New York City (below) April 12-16.



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Student research

Dr. **Walz's** GEO420 Field Research capstone students presented their research at the COLA Undergraduate Research and Creativity Conference in April 2011. Students and their projects were:

- **Andrew Brown**, "Stream Pollution and Acid Mine Damage in West Virginia"
- **Landon Hillman**, "Economic Impacts on Sidewalk Conditions in Huntington, West Virginia"
- **Jimmie Meadows**, "Migration of the Jet Stream in North America"
- **Lora Meadows**, "A Spatial Examination of Atmospheric Polluting Facilities and Monitoring Sites in West Virginia"
- **Deloris Musick**, "Effects of ENSO on Flooding"
- **Jennifer Reynolds**, "Education Reassessment in America"
- **Patricia Usher**, "The Effect of the QBO and ENSO on the Frequency of Tropical Storms and Hurricanes"

Current master's thesis students include Aaron Hankins (Dr. Leonard, advisor), Nathaniel Williamson (Dr. Law, advisor), Amanda Payne (Dr. Djietror, advisor), Amanda Pilbeam (Dr. Law, advisor), Marla Johnson (Dr. Djietror, advisor), Dominique Norman (Dr. Walz, advisor).

Faculty news (cont.)

Dr. **Anita Walz** presented her research at four conferences this academic year: "Satellite detection of temperature changes due to tree removal in cities" at the Annual Conference of the Association of American Geographers, Seattle, Washington, April 12-16, 2011; "Urban environment: Huntington's road-side Trees and the local climate" at The Pat Logan Symposium of Scholars, Marshall University, Huntington, WV, March 3, 2011; "Temperature change after tree removal: even satellites detect it." at The Pat Logan Symposium of Scholars, Marshall University, Huntington, WV, March 3, 2011; "Local tree removal in residential neighborhoods: temperature changes detected by satellite" at the Ninth Symposium on the Urban Environment. American Meteorological Society, Keystone, Colorado, August 2-6, 2010. Dr. Walz also mentored 11 students from GEO422/522 Environmental Geography who presented posters at Earth Day activities at Marshall University, April 22, 2011.

Governor Manchin speaks at GIS conference hosted by Geography

The Geography Department hosted the WV State GIS conference in June 2010. About 150 participants attended. Governor Joe Manchin III gave the opening address.