

Getting to Know... The NEW Geography Department Staff

Trina Messer

Start Date: January 7, 2004

Previous Experience: Afro-American Studies at UW

Role: Department Administrator; managing all department functions

Undergrad Interaction: Nothing official, but the door is always open!

Andrea Miller

Start Date: August 7, 2004

Previous Experience: Medical School Office Manager at UW

Role: Undergraduate Coordinator

Undergrad Interaction: She's the one to go to – She manages nearly everything pertaining to undergraduate geography majors and their relationships with the department, from major declarations class scheduling to advisor assignments, and on and on. See her first if you have a question about official department business.



(Pictured L to R) Char Burke, Trina Messer, Shirley Baxa (front row), and Andrea Miller.

Char Burke

Start Date: August 16, 2004

Previous Experience: Law Library Circulation Manager at UW

Role: Graduate Coordinator

Undergrad Interaction: Prospective graduate students, grade changes, and independent study and internship oversight.

Shirley Baxa

Start Date: May 1, 2004

Previous Experience: Facilities Planning and Management for the Physical Plant at UW

Role: Payroll and Benefits, and Accounting

Undergrad Interaction: Student hourly and proctor recordkeeping

Perú, Just One of the Greatest Places on the Earth!

Why is it that almost one million tourists a year visit Perú? This past summer I spent a month and a half making my way around the environmentally rich country finding the answer to that question.

My experience in Perú was amazing, but before I give away the secrets to this country I should give you a little background first. Perú is the third largest country in South America, and has a population of just over twenty-eight million people, even though the land size is a bit smaller than Alaska. Approximately seven million of those people live in Lima, the capital of the country and just one of the attractions tourists go to see in Perú.

With old Colonial Era buildings in the downtown and the most beautiful churches I have ever seen, you only need to set foot in The Plaza Mayor to be instantly taken back to the 1800's. A quick stop into one of the thousands of restaurants for a taste of a generously portioned authentic dish and an Inca Kola, (the best tasting soda ever), for less than the price of our Whopper, and you will start to ponder if you ever want to leave. If you build up the courage, you can also try taking part in their interesting interpretation of what they consider driving. This is somewhat reminiscent of a game of Mario Kart without the crashing. And if your cup of tea is night-life, well, you'll have to learn about that yourself, but I will say, Wow!

Next you can take a quick flight to Cuzco, the oldest continuously inhabited city in both of the Americas, and the location once inhabited by the Incan Empire. Cuzco is the main tourist attraction in Perú, and one of the most visited in all of South America. The fresh fruits, vegetables, and hand made artwork alone make you wonder about traits and traditions that we have lost here in the U.S. A short train-ride of approx. two hours, or a four day hike, will take you past the lush farm lands where these products come from and end you up in Machu Picchu, perhaps the most beautiful place on Earth. The ancient Incans called this mountain top village home for more than 300 years before the Spanish discovered them there during their wide spread overthrow of Perú in 1532. There is no way to leave Machu Picchu without changing your idea of what beautiful means. Also, due to the number of tourists at any given time, Cuzco also has its own, completely different night-life, that is comparable to taking a trip to ten different countries at once. The only thing I must warn you about is, get in shape first. At 11,200 feet of altitude, it is a task in itself just to breath in Cuzco, possibly the reason why the local soccer team almost never loses at home.

Finally, a trip to Perú would not be complete without a hike into the Amazon Jungle, which actually covers have of Perú's land. The amazing biodiversity you will see in the Amazon will make you immediately realize why it is one of the last environmental strongholds in the world, and why environmentalists are currently fighting so diligently to protect and preserve this area. You need only track down Lisa Carol Naughton in the geography department here at UW-Madison to learn more about these efforts. The Amazon has a night-life also, but that's a whole different, nocturnal, story.

Even with all these great sights to explore, I still haven't told you the best part about Perú, it's the people. I personally have never gone anywhere that I was so immediately accepted and welcomed for what I was. With even a basic knowledge of Spanish and an outgoing attitude, you will quickly find yourself surrounded by new friends. To learn more about Perú and some of its other attractions, visit the Perú Travel, Perú Cuzco, or Perú Facts websites, or track down Lisa Naughton and get a first hand aspect of current environmental happenings in Perú and the Amazon.

Written by: James Earth Solomon Jedibudiah

MADISON GEOGRAPHIC

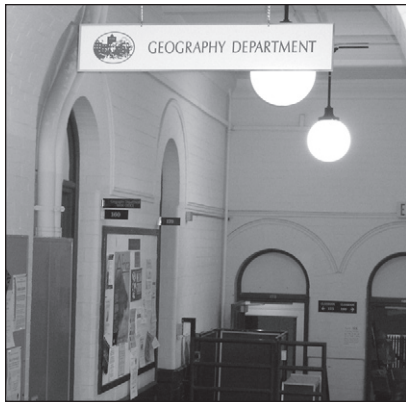
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Lost in the Geography Department This Year?

A REPORT ON THIS SUMMER'S REARRANGING OF SCIENCE HALL

To the surprise of many undergraduates at the beginning of this fall semester, the map of Science Hall seemed to be horribly distorted. Upon closer inspection, this was the result of the newly projected move, which reached completion in late June of this year after six weeks of rectification work on the department's layout. Now, for the first time since 1974, the State Cartographer's Office (SCO) is not positioned on the first floor of the building. Rather, the SCO's five offices have moved into the Geography Department's main office rooms on the third floor, swapping room numbers 143, 144, 155, 160 and 170 for rooms 381, 383, 384, 384A, 384B and 385. Consequently, the department's main offices are now on the first floor and occupy the rooms newly vacated by the SCO.

Many people were gone for the summer at the time of the move, and those who were around had to exercise patience, and some resolve and flexibility as well, as one room at a time was transferred from third



floor to first floor, first floor to third floor, and so on over the month and a half long rearranging project. What was the rationale for this game of musical offices played between tenured professors, department administrative staff, and professional cartographers? Because of the move, the SCO now has more of the adequate space

on the third floor that they lacked before, while the department has established the visible presence that they've been desiring on first floor, where most people enter the building. Once again, it becomes clear that location is key in the line of work for many in Science Hall.

Still in the planing process, the department's main office is working on some glass display cases for the first floor hallway to give students and visitors a better idea of what geography at UW-Madison is about. One of the cases is even going to display Geography Club information, as well as advertise our Wisconsin geography cow tee-shirts modeled after the painting on the wall of our old fourth floor lounge – which leads to another subset of the summer's moves, involving what used to be that undergraduate/Geography Club lounge in room 480. This room too has been taken over by the SCO, and now serves as their student/staff production lab. "It's nice," said Adam Simcock, a graduate student worker for SCO, referring to the bull pen configuration of computer

workstations that now allows for better communication between lab workers when on the job.

The more things have changed, however, one thing in Science Hall has remained the same: the faculty lounge in room 388 is still a casual place for professors to discuss matters and eat lunch, and now the Geography Club is pleased to have been granted access to use the lounge for its meetings every other week. Overall, from the rearrangement of personnel down to the red-marble style name plates and signs, coordinated by the SCO's Brenda Hemstead, which now adorn the doors of Science Hall, the summer 2004 move has put the Geography Department in a position to move forward as a leading institution within its discipline in the first years of the new 21st Century.

Written by Ben Spaier

– Many gracious thank-yous to Trina Messer, Brenda Hemstead, and Adam Simcock for giving interviews for this article.

UPCOMING GEOGRAPHY CLUB NEWS AND EVENTS

Welcome back for another exciting year. The Geography Club has some great plans for the fall semester, like volunteering at GIS day on November 17th, staffing academic advising tables during undergrad registration, geography career nights with professional geographers, and many social activities. And, as always, we'll continue having pizza and grad student nights. Here's the schedule for our next few meetings:

October 25th – Pizza and speakers
November 8th – Pool at Memorial Union
November 22nd – Pizza and speakers

We meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 6:30 p.m. We typically meet in the faculty lounge on the 3rd floor in room 388 (the room behind the mailboxes). However we're trying to mix in some more social activities, so keep your eyes open for announcements via email and posters around science hall. If you'd like to be added to our mailing list, email club@geography.wisc.edu

Everyone is welcome, and we hope to see you at one of our meetings!