What are you currently researching?
I’m working on a long term project on environmental understandings and activism in Turkey, with specific attention to ways that socio-spatial difference plays out in relation to such (e.g. differences with respect to environmental activism in southeast Turkey vs. Istanbul or the Aegean region). The project is a pilot to launch a larger collaborative effort on questions of citizenship, belonging and politics in relation to circuits of transnational migration (Southeast Turkey, Istanbul and Ankara, and Germany). It may lead to some more work on notions of democracy and civil society, as the E.U. has been heavily invested in fostering such in Turkey, specifically through grants to NGOs, including environment-focused efforts.

Do you have any fun field work stories?
I suppose a fun field work story would probably involve being interrogated by police about which villages I had been to that day (perhaps a bizarre notion of fun, but it makes a good story), or being convinced my room was being bugged since people seemed somehow to always know what was going on, even without me telling them (again, perhaps paranoia from the hot sun of the Harran plain)? Fun in a more classic sense would involve the many people who I had a chance to meet, sip tea with, and discuss everything from irrigation and marriage to the US bombing campaign in Afghanistan.

Looking for a job in Cartography? Check Out These Mapping Companies...

ESRI
Founded by Jack Dangermond, ESRI encompasses jobs in the fields of GIS (Geographic Information Systems) and Cartography. ESRI is the producer of Arc View, which is worldwide software that’s integrated throughout schools, governmental agencies, corporate agencies, and other businesses.

www.esri.com

THOMAS BROTHERS MAPS
Thomas Brothers Maps are known for their comprehensive city and state maps that get distributed across the United States. They’re prominent in California, Washington, Oregon, Virginia, and Maryland, and Thomas Brothers is today incorporated with Rand McNally. The myriad of jobs in Thomas Brothers ranges from updating previous city maps to digitizing regional maps.

www.thomas.com

EAGLE EYE MAPS
Locally, Eagle Eye Maps have been producing maps since the late 1970’s in numerous publications including telephone directories, guidebooks, atlases, and presentations. Eagle Eye Maps produces different kinds of paper maps that range from recreational-use to thematic maps. Eagle Eye Maps are more of a small-scale map producer.

www.eagleeyemaps.com

RAVEN MAPS
More on the artistic side, this company designs some of the most detailed topographic maps. Most maps are designed on polyurethane sheets to display relief landforms and are poster size. Raven Maps Headquarters is located in Medford, Oregon.

www.ravenmaps.com

MAPSOLUTE INC.
From Map24 to GoogleMaps, this website displays all cities across the United States and Canada. Professions in Mapsolute range from continuously changing and upgrading maps to map marketing to even map programming. Mapsolute has all of the online maps you need for traveling across North America.

www.mapsolute.com

Written by Sage Sulenta

Compiled by Kara McGurk

Write fun facts, stories, and advice for undergrads in Geography:

Have you ever gotten lost before and where?
I seem to always get lost whenever I’m in a shopping mall. They must design them that way.

Any advice for undergrads in Geography?
Learn a language, live abroad, or pursue new interests now. Somehow, such things seem to get more and more difficult as time goes on.
Soils Labs Renovation
Cause for Emigration

Scheduled to start any day now, major renovations of the Soils Laboratories on the south end of 2nd floor Science Hall are expected to last into this summer. A friendly heads up from Professor Knox informed me that there are many improvements planned for the labs, the implementations of which Physical Geography has awaited for a “mighty long time.” When construction is finished, there will be a pollen lab for Professor Jack Williams (the Department’s new paleoclimatologist), a new walk-in freezer, upgrades of fume hoods, and refurbished cabinets and flooring, along with air conditioning for the entire wing of the second floor! Until project completion, however, students won’t be the only ones asked to pardon the dust: Professor Mark Harrower has already relocated to room 115C. Soon Professor Joe Mason, and eventually all faculty in the wing’s offices up to Professor Knox’s room (#234), will have to temporarily move to other areas of the building. So, though some may claim that Science Hall has been here forever, these renovations are just more evidence that geography and geomorphology are truly dynamic disciplines.

Written by Ben Spaier

Professor of the Month - Leila Harris

Leila Harris is an Assistant Professor of Geography who received her Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. She teaches the following courses: Geog 101: Introduction to Human Geography; Geog 930: Gender, Space, and Environment graduate seminar; Geog 401/IES 400: Environment, Culture Politics in North America (Spring 2005); and Geog 319: International Environmental Justice.

What got you started in Geography?
Taking Intro to Cultural Geography as a first year student at UC Berkeley. Every class we discussed a different territorial conflict (Kurds, Catalan, East Timor, Palestine) and it fit perfectly with my interest in learning about the world and understanding the history and context behind the news headlines. Taking a political ecology class with Prof. Watts a few years later and then working closely with geographers at the National Science Foundation sealed it.

What are your teaching goals?
I remember learning about environmental justice issues and development questions for the first time as a student. Thinking about how exciting that was for me now gives me the energy to teach. My hope is that a student in my classes will think about things in slightly different ways than before, will be interested in learning more about something we discuss, or otherwise be unable to hear the news or listen to a presidential debate in quite the same way as before.

UPCOMING GEOGRAPHY CLUB NEWS AND EVENTS

GEOCACHING
Sat., April 9th, 1:00 pm

Do you like treasure hunts or orienteering? Then you’ll want to join us for geocaching; a treasure hunt for the 21st century. Instead of using old pirate maps, we’ll be using GPS to hunt down secret stashes of trinkets hidden in local parks.

We’ll be meeting in the parking lot behind Science Hall at 1:00. Email the Club (club@geography.wisc.edu) if you’re interested so we can reserve car space for you.

GEOGRAPHY STUDENT SYMPOSIUM
Friday, April 22nd
Memorial Union

Both graduate and undergraduate students are invited to participate in the annual Geography Student Symposium. Students give 15-minute presentations on topics from all geographic disciplines, and then take five minutes of questions.

There is still time to submit abstracts if you are interested in presenting. Please contact Michelle Schenck (mschenck@students.wisc.edu) for more information. There are multiple monetary awards for graduates and undergraduate presentations.

If you don't want to present, be sure to check out some of the student presenters throughout the day. Additionally, there will be a keynote speaker in Room 180 Science Hall, followed by a reception in the faculty lounge on the third floor.

see Harris, page 2.