

# Professor of the Month: Mark Harrower

Mark Harrower is teaching Geog 170 Map reading and interpretation and Geog 370 Introduction to Cartography

*Where are you originally from?*

Kingston Ontario – the “Limestone City” founded in 1673.

*What got you started in Geography?*

My family traveled extensively (we lived in England, Portugal, Greece, Trinidad, etc.) so I was always fascinated by the world, and the ways in which places are different. I also watched many good PBS, BBC, CBC documentaries growing up (e.g., volcanoes, climate, migration, etc.). I also had a love of maps from a very early age ... when I was 10, I asked for a bunch of big wall maps for Christmas (and got them, true story).

*What are you currently researching?*

Broadly, my work is about geographic representation and knowledge construction. Specifically, I'm interested in map animation, Web-based cartography, and geographic visualization.

*What passions you in your area of teaching?*

That my work can help people to learn new things, or do their work better, and that we have more questions than answer right now in GIScience.

*Do you have any advice for undergrads in Geography?*

Be prepared to answer (defend?) the inevitable “what is geography good for?” question. And actually have a good answer!

*How many places have you lived and where?*

Six places long enough to have a new mailing address: Kingston, ON; Toronto, ON; Exeter, England; Victoria, BC; State College, PA; and here.

*What's your favorite place you have traveled?*

Favorite place: Big Island of Hawaii.

*What's your favorite place in Wisconsin?*

State Street.

*What are some of your favorite movies?*

Some of my favorites are Shawshank Redemption, Lord of the Rings, Amelie, T2.

*What's your favorite food?*

Greek food! How can you go wrong when everything starts with olive oil, feta, and basil?

*What's your favorite type of music and a favorite band or group?*

College alternative (Coldplay, Dandy Warhols, U2, Radiohead)

## wander wisconsin

By Kara McGurk

Welcome to Wander Wisconsin, the new travel series of Madison Geographic. Each article will take a look at a different place in Wisconsin. Some places will be appropriate for just a day or afternoon visit, such as this month's location, while others may work better as a weekend getaway.

I hope through this series you will gain an appreciation for the wonderful places we have in this state, whether they are significant cultural locations, natural locations, or something in between. I am always looking for cool places to visit in Wisconsin that I may not have thought about before. Feel free to email me with any suggestions at [kjmcgurk@wisc.edu](mailto:kjmcgurk@wisc.edu).

### DAY TRIP:

#### The University of Wisconsin Arboretum, Madison

Visitor Center hours:

9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays

12:30 to 4 p.m. weekends

[www.wisc.edu/arboretum](http://www.wisc.edu/arboretum)

Many of you have probably heard of the UW Arboretum, but perhaps thought of it as some place that was too far out of the way to allot time to visit. Not true. All it takes is one visit, and you will be hooked.

Located at south of campus where South Mills Street comes to an end, the arboretum is an enjoyable stroll or a quick bike ride away from campus. Hugging the shores of Lake Wingra, the arboretum offers more than just a bunch of trees. Containing over twelve hundred acres, it is packed with more than you can even imagine. From the prairies to the savannas, and the wetlands to the woods, this place is full of ecological communities.

One of the most notable ecological communities in the arboretum is the Curtis Prairie. Occupying over 60 acres, the Curtis Prairie is the world's oldest restored tall grass prairie. An awe inspiring place to experience, a short stroll through it will give you a sense of what this part of Wisconsin looked like before European settlement.

Another part of the arboretum worth taking a look at is the Longnecker Gardens. For anyone even slightly interested in hor-



ticulture, this is the place for you. There seems to be an endless variety of trees and shrubs, each labeled, and you could possibly spend a day just taking in the amount of diversity there is among plants.

Biking and hiking opportunities abound. The paved Arboretum Drive offers a refreshing ride of undulating hills and an ever-changing landscape, and the arboretum is the perfect place for cross-country skiing with over 20 miles of trail reserved for winter use. Just be sure to look at the posted signs and stay on the designated paths, because certain areas are restricted to protect the habitats.

I have just briefly given you a flavor of what the arboretum has to offer. Please, take an afternoon to discover what this great campus has to offer, and go visit the UW Arboretum and fall in love with it yourself.

*What's your favorite animal? Do you have any pets?*

Raccoons, with Meerkats a close second. No pets, sadly.

*Do you have any special talents?*

I play a mean round of disc golf (but haven't played in a long time ... the left coast slacker lifestyle doesn't fit well with being an assistant professor!) and I have hundreds of piano pieces committed to memory.

*Have you ever gotten lost before and where?*

Oh sure. Who hasn't? Sometimes, I even get lost in Science Hall.

*Thank you very much for the interview, Prof. Harrower. Would you like to leave us with a favorite quote?*

“If a picture is worth a thousand words, a map is worth a thousand pictures.”

Interview and Text by Andrea Nesbit

# MADISON GEOGRAPHIC

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## The Geography of ... **Halloween**



**In 601 A.D.**, Pope Gregory the First issued a now famous edict to his missionaries concerning the native beliefs and customs of the peoples he hoped to convert. Rather than try to obliterate native peoples' customs and beliefs, the pope instructed his missionaries to use them. Halloween has its origins in a contracted corruption of All Hallows Eve. November 1, "All Hallows Day" (or "All Saints Day"), is a Catholic day of observance in honor of saints meant to replace Celtic druidic practices.

**For the Celts**, summer officially ended on October 31 and a great celebration, called *Samhain* (pronounced Sah-ween), was held. It was the biggest and most significant holiday of the Celtic year. The Celts believed that at the time of Samhain, more so than any other time of the year, the ghosts of the dead were able to mingle with the living, because at Samhain the souls of those who had died during the year traveled into the otherworld. People gathered to sacrifice animals, fruits, and vegetables. They also lit bonfires in honor of the dead, to aid them on their journey, and to keep them away from the living.

**The Romans**, during their campaigns, adopted the Celtic practices as their own. But in the first century AD, Samhain was assimilated into celebrations of some of the other Roman traditions that took place in October, such as their day to honor Pomona, the Roman goddess of fruit and trees. The symbol of Pomona is the apple, which might explain the origin of our modern tradition of bobbing for apples on Halloween. The thrust of the practices also changed over time to become more ritualized. As belief in spirit possession waned, the practice of dressing up like hobgoblins, ghosts, and witches took on a more ceremonial role.

**The custom of trick-or-treating** is thought to have originated not with the Celts or

Romans, but with a ninth-century North-European (German) custom called soul-ing. On November 2, All Souls Day, early Christians would walk from village to village begging for "soul cakes," made out of square pieces of bread with currants. The more soul cakes the beggars would receive, the more prayers they would promise to say on behalf of the dead relatives of the donors. At the time, it was believed that the dead remained in limbo for a time after death, and that prayer, even by strangers, could expedite a soul's passage to heaven.

**As European immigrants came to America**, they brought their varied Halloween customs with them. Because of the rigid Protestant belief systems that characterized early New England, celebration of Halloween in colonial times was extremely limited there. It was much more common in Maryland and the southern colonies. As the beliefs and customs of different European ethnic groups, as well as the American Indians, meshed, a distinctly American version of Halloween began to emerge. The first celebrations included "play parties," public events held to celebrate the harvest, where neighbors would share stories of the dead, tell each other's fortunes, dance, and sing. Colonial Halloween festivities also featured the telling of ghost stories and mischief-making of all kinds.

**In the second half of the nineteenth century**, America was flooded with new immigrants. These new immigrants, especially the mil-

lions of Irish fleeing Ireland's potato famine of 1846, helped to popularize the celebration of Halloween

nationally. Soon, Americans began to dress up in costumes and go house to house asking for food or money, a practice that eventually became today's "trick-or-treat" tradition. A new American tradition was born, and it has continued to grow. Today, Americans spend an estimated \$6.9 billion annually on Halloween, making it the country's second largest commercial holiday.

**From the Celts of ancient Europe**, to the Romans of the Mediterranean, to the Germans of northern Europe, across the Atlantic to America, and on again to the rest of the world, the evolution of Halloween is not just a historical narrative, but a geographical one as well. As the rituals were adopted in different regions by different cultures, new customs and traditions were added, until today we have a nearly global holiday with a history and geography as complex as the peoples that celebrate it.

Story by Aaron Stephenson

Sources: [www.historychannel.com](http://www.historychannel.com)

"*The Fantasy and Folklore of All Hallows*" by Jack Santino, and "*Extraordinary Origins of Everyday Things*" by Charles Panati

### UPCOMING GEOGRAPHY CLUB NEWS AND EVENTS

Meetings for the Fall 2003 semester will be held every 2nd and 4th Monday of every month. We meet at 6:00 p.m. in the Student Lounge, 480-B Science Hall. Meetings are open to everyone.