MADISON GEOGRAPHIC.

2015 ISSUE

The annual newsletter recapping undergraduate geography happenings brought to you by the University of Wisconsin Geography Club
Memories from AAG

In April, Geography Club sent ten members to the Association of American Geographers Conference in Chicago. Here are some of their favorite moments from the trip!

**Sports Geography**
Mike Dickens

Before I attended AAG, I was unaware that Sports Geography was a viable field, but upon seeing it on the session schedule (on the bus to Chicago, I'll admit I was a bit unprepared and I figured I could wing it) I decided to check it out seeing as I love sports and geography, so this would be a great topic to ease into the AAG atmosphere. I went to three separate sessions on the topic one on Thursday (Sports Geography), and the other on Friday (Sports Geography I and II).

For Sports Geography, I arrived a bit late due to some problems with the rooms at the hotel and getting lunch, so I missed the first abstract. One of the abstracts really intrigued me was Dr. Mark De Socio's *Location patterns of Minor League Baseball teams in relation to their Major League affiliates*. I enjoyed this one despite not being a fan of baseball, because look at leagues with feeder teams like the NHL and wonder why teams like the Edmonton Oilers have their affiliate all the way in Oklahoma City. He brings up the example of his home team, the Baltimore Orioles who have all their minor league teams close by and within their TV market, so fans can support the major league team by attending the minor league games easily. This makes much more sense than what the Oilers have, and it seems like the NHL is catching on to this idea, since they are moving some AHL teams to California to be closer to their NHL affiliates, like the San Jose Sharks' affiliate, the Barracudas are being moved from Worcester, MA to San Jose, CA. The next paper dealt with concussions and similar injuries in football, which is both timely and relevant because of the recent news with Chris Borland retiring after his first season in the NFL to avoid the after affects of a long career in the NFL, and it is frequently in the news regarding the sport. The session finished with a series of maps by Dr. Theodore Gouge that detailed where recruits from various college sports came from against a national average. There were some obvious, well known patterns like how the majority of football players come from the south and hockey players come mostly from Minnesota. Some patterns that I felt were surprising was that the highest ratio of Golf players and Swimmers came from northern states seeing as they are outdoor.
sports and can't be played the whole year. This session made me interested to go to the other sessions the next day.

Friday had two sessions back-to-back Sports Geography I and II. The talk that interested me the most out of the first session of the day was a talk on recruiting in the SEC post-expansion. Recently Missouri and Texas A&M joined the SEC from the Big XII conference, and this caused changes in recruiting in various sports. Missouri and Texas A&M suffered losses in recruiting in the Midwest where the Big XII is centered while they gained in the southeast where the SEC is situated. The thing that fascinated me the most in all of the talks I attended at AAG was the panel for Sports Geography II. They talked about using sports to help teach geography. I feel like this could be a good idea for growing the discipline since many people are interested in sports. If there was a sports geography course it would likely attract people who would go through their college career without taking a single geography course, and I feel like this could inspire people to take more geography courses and possibly become geographers, since something similar happened to myself. I took a First-year Interest Group (FIG) based on my interest in Scandinavian culture and a geography course was included within the FIG and that course was ultimately made me make the decision to declare as a geography major.

There are so many different talks at AAG that there is something for everyone regardless of interest. The important thing is to go and see these talks to hear new ideas and learn of new paths to take in research. I knew that geography was a broad discipline coming into AAG, so I was surprised I overlooked something like sports, and coming to AAG inspired me to do my own research into the geography of sports sometime in the future.

**Career Development**

Clare Trainor

AAG was a wonderful experience because it was a chance to attend presentations and panels on a wide variety of topics. Throughout the few days, I visited talks on the histories of cartography, metal health geographies, sport/exercise geography, watershed geography, as well as a special tribute to Yi-Fu Tuans legacy. One nice component of AAG's conference is that they had panels on jobs and careers. Along with other Geography Club members, we went to a session called Impressions Count: Practical Advice from Employers. The panel included both employers from the private and public sector who gave advice on how to be successful after graduating. They discussed how to find jobs, what skill sets they found necessary, how to
prepare for interviews, and lots of other great advice. From each of the talks I attended at AAG I took away something a little different, whether it was a new interest, advice for the future, or just new knowledge and information about what is happening in the world of geography.

**Geography Expanded**

Breana Nehls

Being my first experience at AAG, when I first arrived in Chicago with my fellow Clubbers, I was quite overwhelmed. I did not expect there to be such a wide variety of topics to choose from each session. Who knew geography could apply to such seemingly abstract topics, such as mental health, sexuality, and pornography? Just by attending the conference for three short days, I felt that my definition of geography had expanded immensely. Being exposed to such novel research and technologies helped me to appreciate just how intertwined geography can be with nearly any subject.

One particular moment that stood out to me in particular was in a session titled: Impressions Count: Practical Advice From Employers. Not only did this session give me confidence that I had the skills to be a successful future geographer, but the presenter left us with some great words to live by, “It is not the aptitude, but the attitude, that gets one to the altitude they desire”. At AAG, I was also exposed to several new ideas on how to apply my geography skills, such as greening cities, drought remediation, and transforming food systems. Generally, AAG reminded me how helpful the geographic lens is to understanding the space around us.

**Thank you Ari!**

Last week we received word that our undergraduate advisor, Arianna Murphy, will be the newest Director & Chief Curator at the Madison Science Museum. On behalf of all undergraduate geography students we wanted to say good luck and thank you for all the help you’ve been, from class scheduling and career advising to helping organize Science Saturday events at the WID. We especially appreciate everything you’ve done to support Geography Club over the years. While we are sad to see you go, we wish you nothing but the best at your new position and are already planning Club trips to the Science Museum!
A Greeting from the Gaeltacht
Chris Morgan

This is your co-president currently on sabbatical on the west coast of Ireland checking in. I’ve been studying in Galway this semester, which at a population around 76,000 is on par with Racine, but still good enough for fourth largest city in the Republic of Ireland. It is a formerly walled medieval town, once run by a group of fourteen merchant families derogatively referred to as tribes by English General Oliver Cromwell. The families embraced the name, however, wearing it as a badge of honor and earning the town the nickname, ‘City of the Tribes’. Intersected by the rapid River Corrib and located on Galway Bay – an inlet of the Atlantic Ocean – Galway is a lovely port town; however, I’d like to tell you of the geography of a region northwest of the city, known as Connemara.

It’s a landscape I did not expect to encounter while in Ireland, my somewhat naïve ideas consisting of rock, cliffs, and lots of green. This district (as it encompasses portions of both Co. Galway and Co. Mayo) left me struggling with somewhere back home to compare it to, leaving me with a combination of Upstate New York and Wyoming as the best equivalent I could conjure. Now I haven’t been to even half of the States, but having seen the dusty, reddish landscapes of Wyoming and the intimidating but not overwhelming ridges of the Adirondacks, that’s what I was first reminded of. The peaks were snowcapped when I arrived in January, but no longer by March or so – with the temperature in the
valley almost always above freezing. This means the elevation was significant, but not so much so that these peaks couldn’t be summited in a day, as I did so on more than one occasion.

Nestled among many of the valleys are beautiful lakes as well – some of considerable size. This too reminded me of Upstate New York, with long, slender basins collecting the unwanted water from the hills above. One major difference, however, is the presence of a fjord, as the mountains of Connemara do butt up against the Atlantic after all. This is known as Killary Fjord, and while you can find a salmon farm and mussel rafts there today, this 16 km long harbor was once where the Spanish Armada attempted to take refuge from the gales of the North Atlantic before being shipwrecked just off the coast in 1588. The Connemara Pony, a distinctly white horse and only native breed to Ireland, is rumored to actually be descended from the surviving horses of that sunken Spanish fleet, Arab stallions that were able to swim ashore.

Another unofficial portion of land that borders Connemara is known as Joyce Country – a region of similar landscapes that was settled and is still inhabited by many with the surname Joyce. Although born in Dublin, the illustrious author James Joyce is of this family as well. Both Joyce Country and Connemara contain the Gaeltacht communities of Counties Galway and Mayo, regions where Irish is the predominant language, and where any motorists not privy to the language will be in for a rude surprise, as all of the signage is in Irish as well. (Side note: It is in fact referred to as the Irish language, with ‘Gaelic’ being the Irish language word for itself – like French vs. Français). While the language is struggling, it is particularly strong in this region, home to almost 60% of the language’s speakers.

If you ever find yourself on the Emerald Isle, I suggest you make a point of seeing this gorgeous part of the Republic, otherwise known as the ‘cultural capital of the country’. With the physical features I’ve already told of, along with its extensive bog lands and historic castles and monasteries (both old and relatively new), this remote portion of the country, at least in my opinion, is certainly worth your while.

Get Involved in a Lab!
Morgan Ripp

As a graduating senior I highly recommend joining a lab in the geography department, as I had a great experience in the Williams Paleovegetation Lab in the Physical Geography Department. You not only get to be involved with great projects and innovative research that is going on the geography community, but you also make connections that will help you in the future. Before I was assigned to a project assessing the vegetation in the Driftless area of Wisconsin during the Last Glacial Maximum I was unaware of how extensive the Paleo community was. Since climate change is a growing threat in our time, it is relevant to research the how plant communities have adapted to past climate change events. I am happy to have had this experience and recommend any undergraduate
to talk to professors and become involved in research that interests you!

**Historical Urbanization**
Katya Mullendore

While Geography 506 is the first and only class I will take with Professor Ostergren, I have enjoyed every lecture. Not only has the Historical Geography of European Urbanization been a good lesson in European history, it has also encouraged me to think about my own surroundings in new ways. Here is my journal entry from the week we covered Post WWII Urbanism:

The ways that the East and West organized their cities after the war were interesting to examine. Western Europe emphasized garden cities with green space and lower densities. Additionally, many of the historical buildings destroyed in the war were lovingly restored. This was in direct contrast to eastern Europe which emphasized industrialization and stark, modern buildings evoking great power across the Soviet skylines. Western Europe had a time of great industrialization and perhaps the East is just catching up, a few phases behind. Or, more likely, it is the regions’ ideologies that reflect their city’s organization. A highly centralized state is less open to liberties in their architecture and planning, more inclined to promote nationalism with imposing contemporary structures.

Despite the drab appearance, I have to say I’ve never seen this architecture anywhere else, which gives Eastern Europe its own intrinsic value. Certainly buildings damaged by grenade fragments in the 90s do not evoke national pride. While our western eyes are not accustomed to this style, I wonder what residents think. Do they see their towns as desolate, harsh collections of cement structures? People grow so accustomed to the city planning around them, they may not even realize it is particularly good or bad, unless called to their attention by an outsider. But what use is an outsider’s negative perspective of their city if a resident simply wishes to build the best life they can in the conditions they are presented?

The last Geography Club meeting of the year will be held at Der Rathskeller in Memorial Union at 7:00pm on Tuesday, May 5. Join us as we celebrate the completion of another academic year and reflect on some of our favorite memories from the past nine months. Snacks (including cheese curds!) will be provided. Hope to see you there!

Yi-Fu and some Geo-Club members enjoyed lunch and talked about their time at AAG
Geography Word Search

J M P H N E A D A D N V A
P Q A X X A U P A R A O R Z N
H K N L S R V I U X I B E S M
R I G E T C N M V T E R F I Z
W P E T U H L I A U R W I L G
M C A I A I U T A A L G U O T
C J T M N P S S T T N L Q I C
S C L O S E D I M E N T A R Y
U U E L R L C W O E L U E O O
X R D O W A Z U S V F Y O C X
T V F D O G S Y P M V J W M U
M E T A M O R P H I C U Z K H
D H P O G N I R E H T A E W C
D L D C A L D E R A G I K A J
Z U C L I M A T E Q U I N O X

ALLUVIUM  AQUIFER
ARCHIPELAGO  ATMOSPHERE
CALDERA  CLIMATE
CORIOLIS  DEFORESTATION
DELTA  DOLOMITE
DRUMLIN  EQUINOX
ERRATIC  IGNEOUS
J-CURVE  MALTHUS
MAP  METAMORPHIC
MOUNTAIN  PANGEA
SEDIMENTARY  WEATHERING

Wisconsin Geography Quiz

Be the first to submit the correct answers to geogclubuw@gmail.com and win an iconic Wisconsin Geography t-shirt!

1. What year was the first Science Hall completed?
2. What is the deepest lake in Wisconsin?
3. How many seats are there in Room 180 in Science Hall?
4. What is the state soil of Wisconsin?
5. Where does Wisconsin rank in terms of largest states by area?
6. Which of these geographers did not attend UW – Madison?
   a. Arthur Robinson
   b. David Harvey
   c. John Muir
   d. Aldo Leopold
7. True or False: Madison is the 3rd largest city in Wisconsin.
8. Roughly how many maps does the Robinson Map Library contain?
9. Madison is nicknamed “The City of Four Lakes.” Name them.
10. What type of physical geography feature is Bascom Hill?

Thanks for reading this issue of Madison Geographic! Any comments, questions, or concerns? Feel free to contact us at geogclubuw@gmail.com or visit us during our last meeting of the year (as detailed above). Don’t forget to grab some Wisconsin Geography swag before summer, including t-shirts, mugs, and baby-onesies for our littlest geographers. Email Tyler Gorski at twgorski@wisc.edu or check out our table at the Geography Commencement Ceremony on May 15th if you’d like to purchase anything and help support club!