At the final GARP department meeting in May 2012, Prof. Stephanie Kelly announced her retirement. She plans to join her husband, Joe, in Africa to set up medical clinics.

In the Fall 2011 semester, Professor Kelly was recognized by the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Planning Association for her work with women. The press release prepared by the University sums it up well: “Professor Stephanie Kelly of Geography and Regional Planning (GARP) at Westfield State University (WSU) is no novice to the department. For a long time, she was the only female in the department where she began teaching in 1986. She has many connections and frequently connects students with internships. It’s no surprise that with all this hard work, she’s been recognized with the Faye Seigfriedt Award.”

Prof. Karl Leiker, notes: “Graduates of WSU’s regional - planning program are now employed at many Massachusetts and national organizations (public, private, GIS) throughout the United States. Our students are considered to be highly qualified. The person responsible for much of this excellence is newly retired Dr. Stephanie Kelly. Her devotion to teaching and establishment of strong standards for our regional-planning majors is the major reason for the success of the program.”

We wish Stephanie the best in her new career!

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**Stephanie Kelly Retires**

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**Kimberly Burlingame and Dylan Walker earn Regional Planning Academic Excellence Award**

Kim and Dylan are added to the list of excellent Regional Planning students that have earned the Academic Excellence Award in the Department of Geography and Regional Planning over the decades. This award recognizes student academic work at the University. Class work, internships, and external service are all evaluated by the faculty in the determination.

Dylan and Kimberly are anchored by Prof. Bristow and President Dobelle at the Awards Ceremony.

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**Inside this issue:**

- Tim LeDoux joins GARP
- Carsten Braun Climbs
- REPL Award
- Belize 2013
- Student News
- Intermediate Meteorology
- Service to Holyoke

**Special points of interest:**

- We’ve moved, visit us in Wilson Hall Suite 203!
- NEW GIS Certificate Program takes off
- REPL Award $1,000
- Geography Education returns to WSU
Timothy LeDoux becomes new GIS Coordinator

Prof. LeDoux travels east from Michigan State University to become the newest faculty member in GARP. He brings an extensive background in GIS and related technologies to the GIS program.

Prof. LeDoux is finishing his dissertation research that integrates a social ecological framework on the retail geography that utilizes multivariate statistics, GIS and survey data to explore the formation of urban food deserts.

Prior to his doctoral work, Prof. LeDoux worked as a geospatial consultant and GIS Manager at Wyle Laboratories in Arlington, Virginia.

The University is fortunate to have Remote Sensing brought back into the program that utilizes the IDRISI software authored by Clark University and GARP.

Introduction to Remote Sensing will be offered Spring 2013.

During the fall 2012 semester, Prof. LeDoux will teach two sections of GARP0244 (Introduction to GIS) and one section of GARP0344 (Advanced GIS) and serve as the GIS Coordinator.

Prof. LeDoux and his family are living in West Springfield.

Welcome Tim!

Carsten Braun Climbs

Highlighted in the current Focus, The Magazine for Alumni & Friends of Westfield State, is the most recent accent of Mt. Kilimanjaro by Prof. Carsten Braun. Climbing the Africa peak in September 2011 meant that he needed to make it a teaching experience for his Physical Geography class and kept in touch using social media.

His work on the mountain involved routine maintenance of the weather station. But unlike the weather station found on the roof of Parenzo Hall (right) this weather station is at nearly 6,000 meters elevation!

Regional Planning Award named after Stephanie Kelly

At the annual Academic Awards ceremony, Dylan Walker (REPL ’12) was awarded the first Regional Planning Award that included a $1,000 check. The cash comes from the GARP Department Endowment that had previously been created in the 1990’s funded by a matching account from the state based on several faculty grants. We are fortunate to have this account reinstated and can continue funding future REPL majors.

After hearing of the retirement of Prof. Kelly in May, the Department agreed to recognize her 25 plus years of service to the Regional Planning program by naming this Award, the Stephanie B. Kelly Regional Planning Award. Details on applying for this award will be distributed to senior REPL majors in the fall semester.
If you have driven through West Springfield, you can’t miss the political signs for Lincoln Blakie (REPL ‘12) running for the local State Representative. The State House is familiar with Westfield State Regional Planning students since Todd Smola (REPL ‘04) is currently the Representative for Palmer.

Nathan Wojcik (REPL ‘12) has received a full scholarship from the American Institute of Transportation Education for his graduate studies at SUNY Albany. Other grad school students are Joshua Florence (REPL ‘12) going for a UMass MRP and Robert Raymond (REPL 12) heading to Boston Univ.

Aysia Wood (REPL ‘12) got a job at Navionics in Wareham, MA and Elizabeth Abate (REPL ‘12) is doing GIS at Hatch Mott Macdonald. Alvin Allen (REPL ‘05) is Senior Planner in Springfield MA.

Mike Arnold (REPL ‘11) is a proud father, a baby boy born 3 August 12. Andrew Golas (REPL ‘10) is in the WSU MPA program and is the Executive Assistant for Palmer’s Town Manager. Another 2010 graduate Matthew Steele says hi!

Alese (Mullen) Higgins (REPL ‘94) is a Trust Administrator for Loring, Wolcott & Coolidge in Boston. Joe Liquori (REPL ‘92) is a FAA Aircraft Inspector with TCI, Inc. in Bloomfield CT.

Taylor Silver (REPL ‘06) got his Law Degree in South Carolina and is an Associate Attorney in Georgetown County, SC.

George Durante (REPL ‘04) recently graduated from the MURP Program at Northeastern University and won an award in the Affordable Housing competition.

David Gallagher (REPL ‘94) also got a Master of City Planning from BU and works for Mass Department of Housing and Community Development.

Kirsten Gorski (REPL ‘08) recently got a job with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council as the Homeland Security Program Assistant.

Professor Weather

Professor Karl Leiker has been known as the campus weather expert for decades. Students from the 70s recall his artificial tornado and more recently, his tornado reputation was put to the test on June 1, 2011.

Over the past few years, Prof. Leiker has been more “vocal” and has sent interesting weather reports out to “Facstaff” email distribution list. Leiker will offer GARP0320 Intermediate Meteorology in the fall 2012 semester. The course will be taught in our GIS Lab (Bates 22) so each student will have computer access.

He continues his research on heat waves and will present his research at the AAG next Spring.

STARS project in Spring 2012. Brian joins the list of four GARP faculty who have earned the coveted STARS award at WSU.

Did you know that the Class of 2013 will represent the 30th year of graduates from the REPL program?

Travel to Belize for Spring Break 2013

This course is a broad survey of the physical and human geographies of the Latin American and Caribbean region with an emphasis on human – environmental processes in Central America.

Prof. Brian Conz has conducted several research projects in Central America and most recently worked in Guatemala on his STARS project in Spring 2012. Brian joins the list of four GARP faculty who have earned the coveted STARS award at WSU.

Prof. Conz is also working with the Massachusetts Geographic Alliance to bring geographic education back to Westfield for pre and in-service teachers.

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More Alumni News

Mary-Elizabeth Burgess (REPL ‘99) is Town Planner in North Attleborough. Bob Blackie (REPL ‘11) survived his first year of grad school. Bryant Falzone (REPL ‘96) is a recruiter for Carlton National Resources. Jeff Burkott (REPL ‘96) is Principal Planner in Holyoke, MA. Kevin Molina (REPL ‘08) is the Community Engagement Coordinator for HAP Housing in Springfield, MA. Ed Downes (REPL ‘92) is owner of NowPhase Marketing.

Linda Webster (REPL ‘92) is Associate Broker/Realtor for Coldwell Banker. Mike Midura (REPL ‘92) is the National Military Manager for Strayer University. Craig Bradford (REPL ‘92) is President at Helping Hands Poker, Inc.

Jon Simpson (REPL ‘94) is Senior Project Managers/Estimator for Charter Environmental Inc. Melissa Santucci (REPL ‘98) is Principal Planner in Braintree, MA. Roberta Brien (REPL ‘94) is the Senior Project Manager for Worcester Business Development Corporation.

Jeff Hescock (REPL ‘02) is the Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Manager at UMASS. Scott MacLeod (REPL ‘94) is the Hazard Mitigation Grants Coordinator for MEMA. Matt Mckay (REPL ‘99) has earned several Master’s degrees from UConn, CCSU and AIC.

Research found Home Ownership lacking in South Holyoke

Prof. Bull’s Land Use and Natural Resource Planning course conducted a extensive research study in Holyoke, MA. Working with Nueva Esperanza and the South Holyoke Safe Neighborhood Initiative, the semester long research project provides students with real life experience.

Beside inventorying the housing stock, demographic information was collected. Data from the 2010 Census was used to update the GIS maps and analysis for the public service project. As many of the alumni know, GARP faculty have supervised numerous research studies in the region. Students have gained valuable knowledge is these scientific studies. Further, the benefits to the community are immeasurable.

Got News?

Do you remember a plan you did here at Westfield State? How about your senior seminar project? Got a new job? Got married or kids? Travel anywhere interesting? Let us know. And Please keep in touch!