This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the Regional Planning major!

Introduction

For twenty years, the Department of Geography and Regional Planning has offered the Commonwealth an excellent undergraduate curriculum in planning. This year, we top 300 majors with the addition of 19 new planners. Also, we joined forces with the biology department to graduate the first class of six Environmental Scientists.

Faculty news include the retirement of David Vincent, and subsequent hire of Paul Stangl for a two year appointment. Further, two GARP faculty were on sabbaticals this year to conduct research on heat waves and Brazilian health care issues.

2000-01 Academic Year Review

Wow, it's been a good year. We hosted a variety of speakers, graduated our first class of environmental scientists, were successful in several grants, and conducted two faculty searches.

What Speakers? During the annual Geography Awareness Week, Prof. John Harmon of Central CT. State University spoke to the campus. Prof. George Psychas, in his role as representative of the Massachusetts Council for International Education, sponsored Prof. Andrew Holman's talk on Canada. Funding from a WSC Teaching Grant sponsored two talks in the Environmental Science Program: Mr. Craig Givens who advised on environmental careers and Prof. Richard Little who gave a slide show on the geology of the Connecticut River.

We also graduated our first class of six environmental scientists and we wish them the best.

Here is a list of funded Grants: WSC Foundation Grant, Massachusetts Geographic Alliance, WSC Teacher Grant, Massachusetts Greenways Grant, American Meteorological Society DataStreme Grant, US Dept of International Communications.

We batted 500 in our searches. We successfully sought and hired Prof. Michael Vorwerk for ENVS faculty. Unfortunately could not complete search for planner. Reason? Inadequate candidate pool.

Faculty Accomplishments

Please see the enclosed GARP Alumni newsletter. Note however, that one GARP faculty is now housed in Parenzo Hall.

Student Accomplishments

This year's Outstanding Senior in Planning was Melissa Bettigole. The faculty voted for Melissa to receive this award for her superior attention to academics and external activities that set her above the other seniors.

In the Environmental Science Program, faculty in GARP and Biology nominated Matthew DelMonte, Angela Koons, Steven Riberdy and Eric Trudeau; we congratulate them!

Planners Kristin Dion, Doug Stefancik and Serena Hawkins presented research on the revitalization of urban parks at the Northeastern Recreation Research Symposium in April. Environmental Scientist Steve Riberdy helped Prof. Bristow on a presentation at the same conference, but was unable to attend. Serena also executed a visitor survey for Friends of Grandmothers' Garden, a local non-profit.

Five REPL and ENVS students earned the new GIS certificate this year. The GIS certificate updates and replaces the Cartography Certificate & Minor and emphasizes computer technology.

Enrollment Trends

Enrollments remain stable. We served 589 students in core, 275 in major classes and 121 in electives. Note, these figures are mutually exclusive and do not double count.
SWOT Analysis

**Strengths:** The GARP department is unique in that we serve four needs on campus. We provide an undergraduate program in planning, lead the interdisciplinary major in environmental science, support liberal studies with our electives and the campus population with a variety of core classes. In other word, we do a lot.

**Weakness:** Our primary weakness may be the lack of a Central Identity. This year we branched out into a third building. Why can't we get a suite of offices together?

**Opportunities:** Certainly the ENVS program is one of the greatest opportunities we can play with. But support for education students, especially in the geography part of our program, (in our humble opinion) is a no-brainer. Further, the interdisciplinary MPA program is an obvious expansion of our expertise.

**Threats:** Following our concern of a central identity is the loss of control of the ENVS program. Since we do not have office space, we had to (reluctantly) relinquish the new ENVS faculty to our colleagues on the second floor of Wilson Hall. Incidentally, we requested that space two years ago during the scramble to remodel Parenzo Hall.

Immediate Major Needs

Notes from Budget Hearing 25 May 2001 (Primary program supported by request in parentheses)

1. **PC for new ENVS faculty member $2000 (ENVS)**
   New Faculty hired.

2. **2-PC's for GARP faculty (GARP)**
   (Bonacquisti has faculty hand-me-down, Kelly has Pentium I)

3. **ESTF account 2-20058 increase to $2000 (ENVS)**
   (50-60 majors anticipated fall 2001)

4. **ESTF account 2-20070 maintain at $5800 (GARP)**
   (Transport $1100, Teaching $2000, Office $700, subscriptions $300, food $400, computer $900)

5. **2-Vernier Labpro "Environmental Sensors" $900 each (ENVS)**
   (tools for Environmental Analysis and Environmental Biology labs)

6. **Support for GIS ESRI Site License $2500 annual (GARP & ENVS)**
   (UMASS Contract 98S3690, Computer Center pays for this)

7. **Color Printer for Bates MM Lab $500 (GARP & ENVS)**
   (This is a must! coin-operated, locked up, password protected, GARP/ENVS ESTF budget can pay for operation?)

8. **Weather Data Subscription. $180 annual (GARP & ENVS)**
   (Leiker currently pays for service out of pocket)

9. **Data/Video Projector & computer for Bates Hall (1st Floor) $5000**
   (none available on floor)

10. **Support for GIS ESRI Site License**
    (GARP & ENVS)
    (UMASS Contract 98S3690, Computer Center pays for this)

11. **Plotter, HP DesignJet 500 42 inch Color $3200 (GARP & ENVS)**
    (Dept. ESTF will maintain supplies, large format plotter for map output)

12. **GARP department Suite of Offices (GARP)**
    (First request 1991; recommend B203, or B22, or W 2nd floor!)

13. **A successful search for a new planner (GARP)**
    (See job description next page)

"Now, Susan," said the geography teacher, "please name all the states in the Union." Susan started out ok, but faltered halfway through the list. "Come on," prodded the teacher, "I could name them all when I was your age." "Sure you could," Susan defended herself, "there were only thirteen then!"
New Faculty Needed

Assistant Professor, Tenure Track

Westfield Massachusetts 01086. Westfield State College. The Department of Geography and Regional Planning invites applications for a full-time, tenure track position at the Assistant Professor level beginning Fall Semester 2002. Hired faculty will teach introductory geography core and planning classes. Computer competency and public outreach expected. Teaching load is 12 hours a semester. A Ph.D. in Planning, Geography or related field with at least one degree in planning is requested, although ABD and professional planning experience considered for exceptional candidates.

Westfield State College offers the Commonwealth's only undergraduate degree in planning and has recently added a new interdisciplinary degree in Environmental Science. Applicants should provide a letter of interest, addressing teaching specializations, curriculum vita, official transcript of last degree and three references to GARP Faculty Search Committee. Review of applications will commence on 1 November 2001.

Long-term Plans & Challenges

Here are three items:

- Refocus major requirements since we are "stretched" supporting so many different programs on campus.
- Work with Poli-Sci, History and others on the new interdisciplinary Masters in Public Administration.
- Prepare for next external review. If it takes place every 5 years, our next should be very soon.

Concluding Remarks

I have attempted to accomplish four tasks as chair of the Department of Geography and Regional Planning: 1. Liaison, 2. Support and Promotion, 3. Administration, and 4. Personnel actions.

Liaison. As chair, I have tried to serve the program as a liaison for on and off-campus authorities. I have tried to make these connections in person, since a personal touch is vital to bring connections.

Support and Promotion. I have tried to support individual and group initiatives, secure funding for program development including speaker series, multi-media material for class rooms and so on. Our annual ESTF budget grew from $2000 to $5800! Additional funds have been secured for software, hardware and a speaker series. We have an excellent outreach program in geography education, environmental education and public service to the community. With this track record, we should continue to do well.

Administrative. Under this area, I have spent many hours (days) preparing written material that could distributed to potential and current students. These include maintenance of the two websites <www1.wsc.ma.edu/garp/> <www1.wsc.ma.edu/environmentalscience>, student handbooks for planning and environmental science, advising materials for the two majors, program descriptions and the like. In other words, this tends to be a lot of paperwork.

Personnel. Personnel issues have fortunately, been a small portion of my responsibility because, essentially, we have a small department, and I am the newest full-time faculty.

Professionally, I look forward to working in geography education and supporting the efforts of the Western Massachusetts Geographic Center. There is much to be done in education and I have a good working relationship with educators on campus and off.

My new toy, river.wsc.ma.edu, is proving to be a handful as I learn how to operate and maintain a server to deliver maps and environmental data to the public. Coincidentally, this year's Geography Awareness Week theme is "Rivers"; I can already see opportunities to combine efforts to support education.

What remains to be done? Where are our opportunities? I leave these challenges to the able hands of Prof. Stephanie Kelly.

Adios,

Significant Problems

Space allocation.