TREASURES of the Hamer Maps Library

page 12
Onward and upward with Penn State Geography

“Onward and upward,” denoting steady progress and improvement, resonates nicely with the trajectory of ongoing advancements and activities in the Penn State Department of Geography.

Most recently the department has been celebrating the successful promotions—with tenure—of Brian King and Alex Klippel. Excellent records of research, teaching, and service earned them the well-deserved recognition of their tenure associate professorships. A classy culmination of events occurred last on October 24 as Brian and Alex, along with their campus counterparts, were feted in the Hamer Maps Library and addressed by Penn State President and geographer Rod Erickson. Per this campus tradition, Brian and Alex each recommended a book for acquisition: the books are fitted with custom nameplates and become special additions to the library’s collection. You can read more on the department website about the books they chose.

One year ago we were celebrating in similar style the well-deserved advancements of Petra Tschackert and Melissa Wright. Petra was promoted with tenure to associate professor and Melissa advanced to the rank of professor. Both Petra and Melissa earned their promotions with stellar accomplishments and accolades for their research, teaching, and service, and they participated in last year’s version of the joyous occasion noted above. For research, teaching, and service are anchors of the department’s trajectory and the active dynamism of our pursuits.

Currently we’re putting the finishing touches on a list highlighting faculty’s major research questions that will be guiding our current and future efforts. Please check out the department website and the upcoming key questions interface.

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Additional editors: Jodi Vender, Karl Zimmerer
U Ed. EMS 13-32

Cover photo: Sanborn Fire Map of Penn State University Park Campus and State College, Pennsylvania, 1906. Courtesy Hamer Maps Library

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DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Upcoming events (subject to change)

NOVEMBER 2012
November 2
• Coffee Hour: Burt Monroe
19th Annual Conference on Critical Geography in Chapel Hill, NC
18th Annual Conference on Critical Geography in Chapel Hill, NC
PA Geographical Society and AAG
Middle Atlantic Division Joint Meeting in Salisbury, Maryland
AAG Middle States Division Meeting in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania

December 22
• Fall commencement

JANUARY 2013
January 7
• First day of spring semester classes
January 9
• Coffee Hour: Cindy Brewer
January 10
• Martin Luther King Day
January 17
• Geography Awareness Week
January 18
• Coffee Hour
January 25
• Coffee Hour: Barbara Gray

FEBRUARY 2013
February 1
• Coffee Hour: Sara Fitsimmons
February 4
• Spring newsletter content deadline
February 9
• AAG Annual Meeting in Los Angeles

DECEMBER 2012
December 7
• Coffee Hour: Roger Dowres
November 14
• National GIS Day
November 15
• Penn State Day of Philanthropy
November 16
• Coffee Hour: Ed Meibach
November 18-24
• Thanksgiving Break
November 30
• Coffee Hour: Brian Tomaszewski
(Ph.D. ’09)

This year also marks the rolling out of our 5-year Ph.D. program and the finalization of a new Geodesign option within the online MGIS program.

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February 12
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February 16
• Blue White Weekend
February 26
• Departmental Recognition Reception at The Nittany Lion Inn

• AAG Annual Meeting in Los Angeles
March 15-16
• EMEX
March 17-21
• Spring Career Days
March 22
• The Miller Lecture: Frank Davis
March 23
• no)Boundaries Conference, keynote speaker: Michael Solern (M.S. ’95)

APRIL 2013
April 5
• State Geographic Bee
April 9-13
• AAG Annual Meeting in Los Angeles
April 10
• Department of Geography Alumni and Friends Reception
April 19-20
• Blue White Weekend
April 26
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MARCH 2013
March 3-9
• Spring Break
March 14-15
• GEMS board meeting

• Coffee Hour: Roger Dowres
December 14
• Last day of fall semester classes
December 17
• Graduate degree program applications due

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Everleigh Stokes was inspired when she read *Mountains Beyond Mountains*, a book about the life of Paul Farmer, a Boston doctor who started a hospital in an impoverished community in Haiti. There, he’s working on making the community healthy by providing some of the same immunizations that are available here in the United States, such as the tuberculosis vaccine.

“He’s [Doctor Farmer] made such an effort and a lot of progress helping that community. I hope to do something similar,” Stokes says.

Stokes, a sophomore hailing from Charlottesville, Virginia, got her first taste for geography and medicine while she was still in high school, taking dual enrollment geographic information systems (GIS) classes through James Madison University (MU).

“I fell in love with the GIS technology during those classes because I realized it had such potential,” Stokes says. “Earlier in high school I was also fortunate enough to participate in two medical mission trips to Honduras through my church. From my experiences on those trips I realized I wanted to work in the fields of disease control and Third World medicine.”

The combination of medicine and geography is not as unusual as one might think. In fact, the Association of American Geographers has as a specialty group within the association devoted to Health and Medical Geography. However, Stokes’s passion sets her apart from many other young geographers.

“After those mission trips, as soon as I discovered the power of GIS, I became determined to combine those two passions,” Stokes says.

Now, she is doing so at Penn State through the Department of Geography, the place where she first read about Doctor Paul Farmer. She read *Mountains Beyond Mountains*, a book recommended to her by her mother, for a class project related to sustainability and geography.

“I was so intrigued by Farmer’s story,” Stokes explains, “so last fall seemed like the perfect time to read that book.”

While Everleigh is working on completing her Bachelor of Science in Geography with specialization in GIS and a minor in bioethics and medical humanities, she remains involved in many other ways in the College of EMS, a result of her positive experiences with EMS faculty, staff, and students.

“EMS is a small college, but we have incredible mentors who truly make an effort to know me as an individual,” Stokes says. “People really care about you here.”

One way Stokes stays involved is by working as a teaching assistant for the GIS freshman seminar course, a course she said she “loved as a freshman,” and was “flattered when I was offered the job.” She is also a mentor for Total Enthusiasm for Medical Sciences (TOTEMS), the first-year GIS freshman seminar course, a course and a three-part GIS science course taught by Cindy Brewer. The first part, a classroom course, was held last spring. Stokes and her classmates learned about mapping technology and planned a trip around the world.

“We designed a trip around the world to explore different mapping agencies and research a topic of interest,” Stokes recalls. “We visited Germany, The United Arab Emirates, and Japan in summer 2012. This fall, I’ll complete the third part of the course and create a presentation for our own national mapping agency based on what I researched abroad.”

And if a trip around the world isn’t exciting enough, Stokes was also awarded the US Geospatial Intelligence Foundation Scholarship last summer, an honor that has provided the financial support to help pay for her education. She was selected based on what I researched abroad.”

While Everleigh is working on an organization that’s helping to fight infectious disease and improve public health in developing countries, “My goal is to work for an organization that’s helping to fight infectious disease and improve public health in developing countries,” she says.

Maybe someday, another geography student will read the book about the career of Everleigh Stokes, just as she read about Paul Farmer, and be inspired to go change the world. Again.
COMMUNITY UPDATES

UNDERGRADUATE

Brian Bates (B.S. ’12) and M. Chelsea Gilliam won awards for their research posters at the April 2012 Undergraduate Research Exhibition Poster Session sponsored by the Office of Undergraduate Education and the Schreyer Honors College. Bates won third place in the Health and Life Sciences category for his poster on “The Honey Bees Next Door” which he also presented at the 2012 AAG Annual Meeting in New York City earlier this year. Gilliam received an Honorable Mention for her poster “Wall Paintings, Wealth and Status in Regio VI, Pompeii”.

David Knoppers (B.S. ’12) was selected as the student marshal for the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences during the Penn State University Park summer commencement on August 11, 2012. For the full story on the department website, use search term: Knoppers.

Josie Farinelli was appointed to the 2012 Homecoming Court.

Everleigh Stokes was selected as one of 30 students in the second year class of University’s prestigious Presidential Leadership Academy (http://academy.psu.edu). Over the next three years, Everleigh will participate in a series of courses, field trips, and co-curricular programs designed to develop leadership, critical thinking, analysis, and decision making skills, as well as broader perspectives on social and political issues.

GRADECATE

Russell Hedberg won a 2012 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship. 

Eleanor Andrews and Arielle Hesse received Honorable Mentions in the competition.

Emma Gaalas Mullaney was awarded a Pratt Dissertation Fellowship from the Society for Women Geographers (SWG) for the 2012–2013 academic year.

Jennifer Titanski-Hooper received a Fulbright Fellowship to fund her dissertation research in Croatia.

Donna Bridges (MGIS) received the Ll. Michael Murphy Award. Bridges currently works at the Defense Intelligence Agency. The award is named in honor of Ll. Michael Murphy, Medal of Honor recipient and distinguished Penn State alumnus.

Jamie Shinn received a Fulbright Award and to fund her dissertation fieldwork in the Okavango Delta, Botswana.

Nate Amador spent five weeks in spring 2012 outside of Kangerlussuaq, Greenland, as a field assistant looking at shrub growth, and doing his side project of snow temperature profiles off Russell Glacier.

Jase Bernhardt and Jennifer Titanski-Hooper won 2012–2013 Centennial Travel Awards from the Earth and Minerals Sciences Graduate Student Council. The awards are offered to support travel for research or fieldwork of a graduate student enrolled in the College of Earth and Minerals Sciences.

Welcome new fall 2012 graduate students

M.S. candidates

Ph.D. candidates

Catherine Airey

Andrew Marshall

Younin Hong

Aricia Ranjar

Ryan Mullins

Vincent Ricciardi

Amorerea Thissell

Andrew Townsend

Eun-Kyeong Kim, Paula Raposo, Christoph Kinkeldey, Sen Xu, and Jenny Smith attended the GScience conference held in Columbus, Ohio, September 18–21.

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GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

New schedule for online geospatial education begins January 2013

It will now be possible to pick and choose among five opportunities a year to take courses – nobody is required to take overlapping classes, but for those who want to finish faster, it will be possible to finish a Certificate in just 9 months and a Master’s degree in just over 2 years. For those who want maximum flexibility, there will be a fifth time per year to take a class and achieve a balanced work-life-education schedule.

Students will have the ability to register online for most courses, and payment plans that have been available to most Penn State students to defer and extend payments will be available for the first time to all of our online students.

More information on these important changes to our online program’s schedule is available on our Program Office website – www.pennstategis.com/newschedule/

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Andrew Townsend

For new MGIS students, on the department website, use search term: MGIS 2012

Kayla Yurco received a Field Award from the AAG Cultural and Political Ecology Speciality Group for “Of Women and Cows: Translating Nature at the Gender and Development for Pastoralists in Central Kenya’s Conservation Areas.”

Amanda Young spent summer 2012 in Japan conducting research on an East Asia and Pacific Summer Institute (EAPSI) Fellowship.

Chanda R. Turner received the Alfred P. Sloan Scholarship, a dissertation research fellowship for students in the STEM disciplines.

Several MGCS students gave presentations at the Esri International User Conference July 24, 2012 in San Diego as part of their capstone MGCS projects:

• Michael Rink [title not provided]

• Vanessa Damato on “Cluster Analysis on Demographics in Human Trafficking Source Provinces, Cambodia”

• Jeri Ledbetter on “Inventories, Assessment, and Stewardship of Springs Ecosystems through Geocollaboration”

• William Dietze on “Using GIS to Measure Modern Development at Teotihuacan, Mexico”

everleigh Stokes joined the department as a visiting Ph.D. student during the fall 2012 semester.

Andrei Israel was awarded a Christine Mizayyan Science & Technology Policy Graduate Fellowship from the National Academies for the fall 2012 semester.

Rachel A. Bianchetti, Nouman Hussain (MGIS), and Everleigh Stokes (undergraduate) won United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (USGIF) scholarships for 2012–2013.

Rachel A. Bianchetti received a NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant 2012–2014.

Eun-Kyeong Kim, Paula Raposo, Christoph Kinkeldey, Sen Xu, and Jenny Smith attended the GScience conference held in Columbus, Ohio, September 18–21.

Continued on next page

Elizabeth Crisfield passed her dissertation defense on Tuesday, October 23, 2012.

FACULTY AND STAFF

Anthony (M.S. ’05, Ph.D. ’08) and Brandi (M.S. ’05) Robinson announced the birth of their baby girl, geographer, Claire Theresa Robinson, on January 31, 2012.

Peta Tsachak was named Coordinating Lead Author on Chapter 13 (Livelihoods and Poverty), Working Group II, for the 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), due to be published in April 2014.

Brent Yarnal was elected as the 2012–13 Chair Elect of the University Faculty Senate. For the full story on the department website, use search term: Faculty Senate.

R.斯顿ton Maxwell and his wife Megan announced the birth of their first child, freshwater ecologist Douglas Maxwell, on April 24, 2012. Maxwell has since left Penn State to become an assistant professor of Geospatial Science at Radford University.

Margaret (Meg) Winchester joined the Department of Geography as a post-doc from Kampala, Uganda, where she had been working and studying part-time since 2003. Her doctoral research takes a geospatial approach to the intersection of HIV and intimate partner violence among Ugandan women. Since graduation, Winchester has been lecturing at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio and Makerere University in Kampala, as well as consulting with the Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) and the World Health Organization (WHO). She will be working with Brian King on an NSF-funded study of health and livelihood in South Africa.

Christopher Fowler joined the Department of Geography as an assistant professor. His research examines the outcomes of local planning and economic development policies, with a focus on local spending decisions more broadly. He says he is motivated by a desire to better understand how

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the Amazon's expanding agricultural frontier (driven largely by cattle and
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transitional forests. The research team continues to monitor the effects of
experimental plots, which required walking and setting fire along 10 km
In this photo, Balch is using a drip torch to ignite one of the 50-hectare

Q&A with Jennifer Balch

The burn boss
In this photo, Balch is using a drip torch to ignite one of the 50-hectare
experimental plots, which required walking and setting fire along 10 km
of trails in order to explore the effects of recurrent fire on Amazonian
transitional forests. The research team uses to monitor the effects of the
burns, which are designed to mimic wildfires that frequently escape
into the Amazon's understory from intentionally set fires associated with
the Amazon's expanding agricultural frontier (driven largely by cattle and
soybean production). Photo credit: Jennifer Balch

Q: How did you initially become interested in fire?
A: I think it is part of human nature
to be attracted to and disturbed by
fire. I first began thinking about the
fire cycle and people's relationship
with fire while on a Fulbright in
Venezuela. I had the opportunity
to work with a researcher who was
looking at the Pemon indigenous
peoples' fire management strategies in
the Gran Sabana (an incredible landscape of savannas and forests
with tabletop mountains that were featured in the movie “Up”).
I distinctly remember seeing a
little boy playing with fire by the
side of the road. He was delicately
sprinkling sparks from a burning
stick every few feet, and I remember
thinking, “Wow, where’s your
mother, hasn’t she told you not to
play with fire?” And then it
dawned on me what a complex and
intriguing relationship we humans
have with fire. Here was this little
boy implementing a dispersed and
brilliant strategy that has been honed over countless
generations—which was to burn
minds on fire, but we need to know much,
much more about the fire cycle and the drivers behind the
diversity and distribution of fire on Earth.
If you look at a place in the world where fire frequency
is well outside its historical patterns—for example, the
world’s tropical humid forests—and ask how much does
changing fire contribute to climate change, that answer
is really surprising. Intentional deforestation fires in
the tropics contribute up to a fifth of the human-caused
increase in carbon emissions since pre-industrial
times. Fire, and people’s use of fire, is inextricably linked
to the climate system.

Q: What does this research translate into the real world?
A: Better understanding of fire will help us adapt to
changing fire regimes, particularly where there are bigger
fires, more frequent fires, or fires in places where we don’t
normally see fires. We need to shift from thinking of fire
as a disaster phenomena to thinking about what are the

sustainable fire regimes that we can tolerate and live with
against the backdrop of changing climate.

Q: What are your future research plans?
A: We need to reassess the role of fire on Earth. My
research aims to understand patterns and processes that
underlie disturbance and ecosystem recovery, particularly how shifting fire regimes are
reconfiguring tropical forests, encouraging non-native
ingression, and affecting the global climate. My
current and future research addresses the following
major unsolved questions: What is fire’s role in the
Earth system? More specifically, how does fire contribute to
global trends of climate warming and how does climate
documenting promote fire? A second question I am looking into is how fire regimes are altered by invasive species?
Particularly, how is an invasive grass-fire cycle established and perpetuated? I am also researching how the recent
unprecedented increase in human-initiated fires is altering
tropical-forest dynamics, and how this increase in fire
frequency is changing carbon cycles and the recovery
trajectories.

In addressing these questions, my research aims to
explore global patterns of anthropogenic climate and
land cover disruptions to help inform people about
opportunities to curb and adapt to these changes.

Humans have an imperfect relationship with
fire. We are dependent on combustion, and
fire has been a part of our history, migrations,
cultures, and even our evolution. … Yet, we are
vulnerable to fire—we don’t completely control
this tool. We experience this vulnerability over
and over again when wildfires burn.”

Q: How does this research translate into the real world?
What are the implications for policy and/or practice?
A: Fire is as elemental as air or water. We live on a fire
planet. We are a fire species. Yet, the study of fire has been
really fragmented. We know quite a bit about the carbon
cycle and the nitrogen cycle, but we need to know much,
much more about the fire cycle and the drivers behind the
diversity and distribution of fire on Earth.

Q: What is one of the most interesting/surprising things you
have learned about fire through your work to date?
A: Fire is elemental as air or water. We live on a fire
planet. We are a fire species. Yet, the study of fire has been
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diversity and distribution of fire on Earth.
New APG meeting and student networking event
by Jodi Vender

The Department of Geography now has an officially recognized Affiliate Program Group (APG) of the Penn State Alumni Association (www.alumni.psu.edu/groups/apg), chartered by the Graduates of Earth and Mineral Sciences (GEMS) alumni society.

The group held an organizational meeting in conjunction with the college’s Arts Fest breakfast in fall 2012. It was the first meeting in conjunction with the GEMS alumni. It was determined that the APG’s initial focus will be to organize formal leadership, as well as networking with and mentoring students.

Do we want a catchy name? As of now, the group’s official name is Department of Geography Affiliate Program Group. We’re open to suggestions on more creative titles—for example, the Metro APG (MetroAPS-Meteorology Alumni of Penn State). Submit your group name suggestions to alumi@geog.psu.edu. You’ll be the winner for the opening entry!

How can you get involved? If you’d like to serve on the APG board, organize events, mentor a student, provide feedback to the department, or otherwise share your expertise, email alumi@geog.psu.edu or call Jodi at 814-863-5730 and let us know how you’d like to be involved!

Our next event will take place on Saturday, February 9, 2013 in Walker Building. Following a lunch and business meeting, we’ll hold a career networking session for students and alumni. Details will be posted at www.geog.psu.edu/alumni/apg.

If you’d like to participate, please indicate your interest at www.geog.psu.edu/alumni/feb9apgmtg.

 Helpful to see you in February, if not sooner!

MAP REVIEW by Paulo Raposo
Dual-purpose, practical, playful

Run by Penn State Geography alumnus Mike Hermann (B.S. ’95), Purple Lizard Maps is a State College college map publisher that prides itself on high quality maps made with the benefit of familiarity with the area. All three maps listed on the company’s website (purplelizard.com) describe hiking trails local to the State College area. “Scotia: Pennsylvania State Game Lands #127” is particularly interesting because it is a dual hiking/historic map, with the same landscape covered on either side, but with different symbol sets suited to either map purpose.

Like other Purple Lizard maps, Scotia is carefully designed as a printed map, meant to be folded and carried rather than seen on a computer screen. Not only do the materials reflect this (the map is waterproof and tear-resistant plastic), but the symbology is carefully tailored to this use case as well. Symbols are clear with good color contrast and are visible even in low light. Latitude and longitude ticks for GIS coordinates are given at the map border, but a gratefully is cleverly left out, since the fold creases help a reader approximate a grid without the visual clutter of actually having one. Point symbols such as gates and parking lots are nicely graphically associated with line symbols like trails and roads, since the point features are most likely to be encountered while following a path like a hiking trail. Symbols are given along with a subtle hillshade.

Taking advantage of the southeast to northwest orientation of the local valley, the map uses its corners as places to host text boxes with interesting historical or contextual information. Mentions to State Game Lands advisors (e.g., about the need to wear bright orange clothing in hunting grounds, etc.) are particularly useful. Historical photographs and explanations of the iron ore extraction operations in the area during the 19th and 20th Centuries make for great camp-side reading. A nice touch on the historical map is the “ghosting-in” of modern roadways in light violet.

This map was produced in partnership with Clearwater Conservancy, and makes note of the Barrers to Bald Eagle Wildlife Corridor the group has established in the northwest of the area mapped. Also provided with the hiking map is a short discussion of the ecological importance of the barners, noting how it provides important habitat to birds and amphibians, as well as acts as a groundwater recharge area. Altogether, the map makes for a great navigational guide or historical document, and provides thoughtful reflection on the natural and cultural significance of the area.

If you’re looking for even more adventure, you can always hike out to a spot where Hermann has placed one of his signature – and playfully mysterious – purple lizard symbols.

Paulo Raposo is a Ph.D. candidate focusing on cartography in the Department of Geography at Penn State.

Rosemary Daley (B.S. ’06) works as a senior GIS cartographer with National Geographic. Even though she says “I never imagined that I’d be so fortunate to start my career at such a distinguished organization,” she is grateful for the challenges, opportunities for creativity, and talented colleagues she works with every day.

“I have to give my parents, and specifically my father, a lot of credit for fueling the geographer inside of me since youth,” Daley says. She vividly remembers a wall chart of the world, and a lot of credit for fueling the geographer inside of me since youth,” Daley says. She vividly remembers a wall chart of the world, and a

“Many of my colleagues have been working at National Geographic for many cartographic methods that had been honed over the years and I’m really enjoying helping to usher in some new techniques and software to keep our maps and workflow fresh.”

“After being in the working world for over six years (which I can’t believe) I still don’t know what I want to do when I grow up.” But I am really enjoying what I do right now and I know I will be able to apply the things I have learned to whatever or wherever the path leads me in the future.”

Rewarding work
Daley with her work, a National Geographic map which won Honorable Mention in the Reference Map category at the 39th Annual Cartographic Design Competition. Photo credit: Rosemary Daley.

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So, young Daley, who had been “spin to the many cartographic methods that had been honed over the years and I’m really enjoying helping to usher in some new techniques and software to keep our maps and workflow fresh.”

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Treasures of the Hamer Maps Library

by Angela Rogers

“Maps are still one of the only concrete records of what a place looks like at any given time....”

The Donald W. Hamer Maps Library re-opened in fall 2009, in a new location in the basement of the Central Pattee Library, a long way from its beginnings in 1947 when Ruby Miller started the map collection in the Department of Geography. Marcy Bidney has been the head map librarian for five years and oversaw the most recent move and transformation of the maps library. Bidney has both bachelor of arts and master of arts degrees in geography from Rowan University and Temple University and a master of science in library and information science from Drexel University. “I had no idea 20 years ago that I would become a map librarian. My mom worked in a library but I did not know what a librarian did. It never crossed my mind to work in a library,” Bidney recalls. But that changed when she worked for a summer at the Kensington Welfare Rights Union, a Philadelphia-based advocacy group for the poor and homeless. After volunteers went on a road trip to document human rights violations, Bidney took the locations of those violations and created a map. “Through that work, I became much more passionate about access to information and power. It was quite transformational to me.”

When Bidney took over, the head map librarian position had been vacant for some time. “I would say that the maps library at that time was underused, hard to find, and not user-friendly,” she says. “It was a place where nobody came – unless they were lost.” Now, it is easy to find. More than relocation, the move also provided opportunities to modernize the collection and to re-envision the purpose of the maps library. More than two years in the making, Bidney says, “the move consumed all of my work life to make it exactly how I wanted it to be.”

“We went through the entire collection of 450,000 print maps. We went through every drawer and found triplicates or quadruplicates. In the past, four copies was smart to have, but now four copies (unless it’s a Pennsylvania map) are not necessary,” Bidney explains. Another aspect of the transformation was to digitize special parts of the collection. Paper copies of digital copies are sent to other libraries in need of them. Map librarians use a listserv to offer their extra copies or ask for what they’re missing. “It’s how we build our collections, for free, in addition to what we purchase,” Bidney says. In addition to the print and digital maps, globes, atlases, reference books, and gazetteers, the maps library offers a variety of services.

• scanning and printing services (up to 42 inches wide)
• creating custom cartography
• lending handheld GPS devices
These services are free for Penn State students, faculty, and staff. Outside patrons are charged a fee.

The maps library website offers a suite of online resources as well:

• the digital map drawer
• links to other map resources such as the USGS quads in PDF format and other university map collections
• Simply Map, a web-based mapping and data analysis software

Geographers are still the heaviest users—but the map library serves all disciplines. “The influx of a variety of other disciplines speaks to the growing importance of geospatial information. We are here as a resource for print maps, digital maps, geospatial data, historical and current. If we don’t have it, we can help you get it,” Bidney says. That’s true most of the time, but not always.

One of the most unusual requests Bidney has received was from an engineer working with Engineers without Borders, a non-profit, humanitarian organization that partners with developing communities worldwide to improve their quality of life through the implementation of sustainable engineering projects http://www.engr.psu.edu/ewb/

“He needed aerial photos of Freetown, Sierra Leone with a specific level of detail,” she recalls. Bidney contacted other libraries and searched and researched. They did not exist.

“I international data, particularly for Africa, is notoriously hard to find,” she acknowledges. “There is an ongoing need for cartography of these areas. I can send people to Google Maps for the most recent ‘map,’ but the bigger issue is that when these places change, there’s no record of what was before – no one is keeping

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Resources

Website: www.libraries.psu.edu/psul/maps.html
Blog: http://mapslibrarypsu.wordpress.com/
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Denise H. Wardrop gave the talk “Catalyzing a Path Forward for Sustainability” at the October 27 Huddle with the Faculty deanship. A Path Forward for Sustainability is a large-scale lignographed street plans at a scale of 50 feet to one inch (1:600) on 21-inch by 25-inch sheets of paper.

The Sanborn Company produced maps to inform fire insurance salesmen of liabilities,” Bidney notes. “It is one of the most heavily used collections. It is fragile and unique.”

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(left to right) **Gwen McCauley, Fred Gockley, and Marianne Gockley** with Jeff Gockley Memorial Award recipient **Kevin Sparks** at the spring 2012 Department of Geography Recognition Reception. The Jeff Gockley Memorial Award honors and recognizes outstanding achievement by a rising senior undergraduate student majoring in geography with the GIScience option. The award has been made possible by the generous donation of Marianne and Fred Gockley.

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