HAROLD M. MAYER

Fifty Years of Professional Geography

Edited by Lutz Holzer and Jeane M. Knapp

FUNCTIONAL PATTERN OF THE RAILWAYS IN METROPOLITAN CHICAGO


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HISTORY OF GEOGRAPHY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MILWAUKEE
1885-1990

DONN K. HAGLUND

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee traces its roots to the establishment of the Milwaukee Normal School in 1885. Its original faculty numbered just seven persons, one of whom, J. J. Maple, doubled as President and teacher of psychology and pedagogy. The remaining six included two women who shared geography, history, and methods instruction in the earliest years, Mary Cate and Eleanor Worthington. Thus it is that geography occupied a central place in the original, two-year curriculum.

The 1890s and first decade of the twentieth century saw geography and the methods of its teaching entrusted to a number of persons, including Margaret E. Conklin, Charles P. Carey, Conrad E. Petzer, Lucius T. Gould, and E. C. Case. Among the earliest publications to originate in Milwaukee geography were “A Description of Models Illustrating the Physical Geography of Wisconsin” (Case, 1907) and “Suggestions toward a Home Geography of Milwaukee” (Gould, 1908).

Luise W. Mears, M.A., came to the Normal School in 1912 where she remained until 1941. The University archives contain a copy of what may have been the institution’s first geography field manual, “Around Milwaukee, Lakes and Lands, A Laboratory” (Mears, 1923). In 1917 Miss Mears was joined by Harvey A. Uber who was recruited into the World War I Army to teach geography on campus, by then located on North Downer Avenue. (The Normal School’s founding site was at Eighteenth and Wells Streets not far from the present Marquette University campus. The original building is now the Milwaukee Rescue Mission, but the name “Normal School” still appears on its
facade.) Dr. Uber (Ph.D. Marquette, 1933) taught student-soldiers in what was called the Student Army Training Corps (derisively nicknamed by its members and the campus community as the “Saturday Afternoon Tea Club”), an easy way to avoid assignment to the “real” Army, especially the American Expeditionary Force in France.

Following the Armistice, Harvey Uber remained at the school until his retirement in 1963, including service as chairman for twenty-five years: from 1933 (following Miss Mears into that office) until July 1, 1958. The pre-Pearl Harbor Department of Geography consisted of Uber, Miss Olive Thomas, and Dr. Mary Jo Read (arrived in 1940). Again, during World War II military personnel were assigned to both the North Downer Avenue campus and the University of Wisconsin Extension Center downtown, which would eventually merge to form the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1956.

The University of Wisconsin System was founded as the present Madison campus in 1849. From 1907 onwards it offered extension instruction in Milwaukee at a variety of primarily downtown facilities. Instruction at the Extension was essentially at the freshman and sophomore levels, although it should be noted that Madison authorized graduate instruction in 1940 (mathematics) and, immediately after World War II, in certain engineering and business subjects. Half of the required credits for a master’s degree could be taken in Milwaukee, but residency for the remaining portion of the requirements had to be completed in Madison, whose graduate school retained control of all graduate off-campus work until the 1960s. Geography enrollment at the North Downer (Kenwood) campus had grown slowly during the depression and World War II years; 365 in fall semester 1937, 490 in fall 1942, and 505 in fall 1947, the year that Professor Ruth D. Stoveken was recruited, following Navy service, to round out a four-person department with Uber, Thomas, and Read.

On May 26, 1950 the College received a Gamma Theta Upsilon (honor and professional society in geography) chapter charter.

The staff remained essentially unchanged through the first half of the 1950s with Professor Katherine G. Nelson of nearby Milwaukee Downer College, a geologist, periodically assisting. Dr. Nelson was to go on to become the original UWM geologist when that discipline was separated from geography in 1961, which occurred after she left Downer College for a few years of full time teaching at what had become successively Milwaukee State Teachers College and then Wisconsin State College, Milwaukee, both successors to the old “Normal School.”

Prior to the 1956 merger, courses in both meteorology and oceanography were taught, principally by Professor Uber. The courses, particularly meteorology, were continued into the middle 1970s by other faculty and comprised the single introductory offering in oceanography. The courses were then transferred to the Department of Geology.

Redesignated as atmospheric sciences, the program continues today as a sub-department within geosciences. Professor David H. Miller, who joined the Department of Geography in 1964, was among the first members of the atmospheric sciences staff. He continues, in post-retirement, to offer courses. Reacting to steadily intensifying community pressures, but over considerable resistance from many quarters, especially Madison circles, and reinforced by exploding post-war enrollments (in the case of geography at Kenwood campus a virtual doubling from 505 in fall 1947 to 991 in fall 1956) the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee was created by the Wisconsin State Legislature through a merger of Wisconsin State College, Milwaukee and the University of Wisconsin Extension Division in 1955, effective July 1, 1956. The original merged geography faculty consisted of five persons from Wisconsin State College, Milwaukee and four, Joseph Kenny, Elmer Ahlmann, Irma Baxter, and Kerlin Seitz, from the Extension Division. The merged geography operations selected the Wisconsin State College Chairman, Harvey Uber, as its first Chair.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY CHAIRS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Chair</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1956-1958</td>
<td>Harvey A. Uber (after 23 years as chairman at predecessor institutions)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1958-1963</td>
<td>Mary Jo Read</td>
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<tr>
<td>1963-1969</td>
<td>Paul E. Lydolph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969-December 70</td>
<td>Fritz Prohaska (died in office)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 70-January 71</td>
<td>Canute Vander Meer (acting)</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 71-July 72</td>
<td>Paul E. Lydolph (resumed chairmanship)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972-1975</td>
<td>Clinton R. Edwards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975-1979</td>
<td>Barbara Z. Borowiecki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979-1983</td>
<td>Donn K. Haglund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983-1985</td>
<td>Barbara Z. Borowiecki</td>
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<td>1985-1990</td>
<td>Lutz Holzner</td>
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<tr>
<td>1990-</td>
<td>Harold M. Rose</td>
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</tbody>
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Faculty growth was immediate following the merger. Four persons were added to the original nine the first academic year. While none of these thirteen remain on campus, several of the present faculty came shortly thereafter. Professor Donn K. Haglund arrived in 1958, Professor Paul E. Lydolph in 1959, and Professor Barbara Borowiecki in 1960.

Geography, which had always been a popular academic concentration since the 1880s as a teaching preparation field, was an instant favorite with the student body of the newly merged institution in the 1950s. For example, combined semester geography enrollment was 2,686 out of a university student body of 5,369 in 1959-60. This placed
UWM ninth in the nation in geography enrollment and sixth in geography faculty size (then 13). That year UW-Madison ranked third nationally both in geography enrollment and in geography faculty size (15). During the department's first few years of existence, courses were offered at both the downtown and the Kenwood campuses, but by 1964 all geography credit work was taught on the Kenwood campus.

Although the 1960s was a decade of graduate program additions and qualitative faculty additions, it was also a time when undergraduate instruction was not downplayed. The UWM Geography Department carried out National Defense Education Act Summer Institutes for highly selected middle and secondary school geography teachers who came from various parts of the nation in 1965, 1966, and 1967, the only years in which the federally funded program existed.

The same time period was one in which the UWM campus was a training center for U.S. Peace Corps volunteers, especially for Latin American and African assignments. Geographers, of course, provided their expertise to these training programs. September 1961 saw the establishment of the department's Map and Air Photo Library (the collection itself commenced three years earlier). A few months later, in February 1962, the Cartographic Services Facility, established to serve the entire campus community, was initiated within the department.

Present faculty members who joined the UWM staff in the 1960s are Harold Rose (1962), Lutz Holzner (1964), Clinton Edwards (1965), Norman Stewart (1967), and Karel Bayer (1968). Former faculty members who also made significant contributions to the advancement of the Department of Geography from the late 1950s to the present include Steven Stover (1958-64), Canute VanderMeer (1960-72), Paul Lehrer (1960-66), William Goodwin (1960-71), Glen Weaver (1962-64 and 1967-72), Steffan Hastenrath (1965-67), Samuel Hilliard (1965-68), Walter Lyons (1969-76), Theodore Miller (1969-71), Robert Schmidt (1971-78), Stanley Trimble (1972-75), and Robert Erickson (1978-85). Frank Stetzer served from 1986 to 1989, when he transferred to the University's Computer Services Division, while continuing to contribute instructional services to geography. Howard Deller of the Library's AGS Collection staff is similarly supplementing the teaching program of the department as Adjunct Assistant Professor.

Especially to be remembered are Federico (Fritz) Prohaska (1964 until his death, while serving as chairman, in December 1970), and James J. Flannery, Sr. (1960-87) and Robert C. Eist (1966-87), both of whom died while serving this university.

Graduate programming commenced modestly with a single upgraded undergraduate course taught by Paul Lydolph starting in January, 1963, and a first term enrollment of six part-time graduate students. The program rapidly expanded, however, with several additional departmental members granted graduate faculty status, with ten of their course offerings approved for graduate credit as of Septem-
ber 1963. Swift approval at all levels was obtained, including approval for those courses that had required several Madison echelons to award master’s degrees! Six master’s degrees were conferred in 1965. While the initial master’s degree track did not include a thesis requirement, it was quickly recognized (1965) that in order to advance to doctoral programming, the existence of a thesis mandated degree at the master’s level, but designed with eventual doctoral study in mind, was essential. In 1966-67 the first thesis track master’s degrees were conferred on six candidates.

Departmental efforts toward establishing a doctoral program began almost immediately after the master’s approval in 1964. Late that same year the first tentative proposal (only five pages in length) was submitted. It was stalled in Madison, February 5, 1965. The department was undaunted. As quickly as March 18 a rewritten (now an impressive 37 pages in length) document was sent up the line and received approval the following spring as only the second (after mathematics) approved Milwaukee Ph.D. program. Along with psychology, approved shortly after geography, it took effect in September of 1966 as one of just three doctoral programs at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. The distinction of being UWM’s first geography Ph.D. belongs to Sister M. Dolores Rauch, then a faculty member at Mount Mary College, Milwaukee, whose advisor was Professor Harold M. Rose.

Through the May 1990 graduation, a total of 110 master’s degrees (including 26 awarded under the non-thesis option which was discontinued in favor of a single thesis-required track in 1981) and 45 doctoral degrees have been conferred. By 1967 the University had doubled the size of the Kenwood campus through the acquisition of two adjacent private secondary schools and the purchase of the site of Milwaukee Downer College, which moved to Appleton, Wisconsin, where it merged with Lawrence College to form Lawrence University. The building presently occupied by the Departments of Geography and Geosciences (formerly Geology), Sabin Hall, was obtained through the Downer College purchase.

The decade of the seventies was highlighted by the acquisition of the library and map collection of the American Geographical Society (AGS). In the face of competition from a number of other major graduate departments of geography, UWM was able to persuade the governing body (Council) of the AGS that Milwaukee, and specifically the UWM Golda Meir Library, could best provide advantages and opportunities that were no longer financially and otherwise possible in uptown Manhattan. University System President John C. Weaver (a geographer), UWM Director of the Library William C. Roselle, and then Geography Chair Barbara Borowiecki were key individuals, along with a cooperative state administration, in acquiring this unique treasure, described as “the largest privately owned geographical research collection in the western hemisphere.” The AGS Collection’s holdings in 1990 consist of over
432,240 maps, 208,500 books and periodicals, almost
100,000 LANDSAT images, 138,800 photographs, 33,650
pamphlets, 6,770 atlases, and 71 globes! While the corpo-
rate offices of the American Geographical Society remain in
New York City, as required by the Society's charter, the
relocation of its principal tangible assets also brought edit-
orship and publication of one of the Society's three principal
periodicals, Current Geographical Publications, to the
UWM Library. Formal acceptance by the Board of Regents
completed action on the part of the University. After a num-
ber of legal entanglements, the actual move took place from
July 26 through September 12, 1978 in sixteen full-size
moving vans. The complexities of reestablishing the collec-
tion deferred its opening to the public until January, 1981.

As the graduate programs in geography rapidly
matured during the late 1960s and throughout the 1970s, the
department was enhanced by the presence of a steady
stream of distinguished foreign visiting professors, all of
whom were present for a least one semester and participated
in the teaching program of the department. They included:

Feofan Davitaya (USSR)
Gunnar Alexandersson (Sweden)
Toshie Nishizawa (Japan)
W. Gordon East (United Kingdom)
R. Anthony French (United Kingdom)
Wolfgang Weischet (Federal Republic of Germany)
Dieter Havlik (Federal Republic of Germany)
Cesar Caviedes (Chili)
Graeme H. T. Hart (South Africa)
Jean Gottmann (France/United Kingdom).

There were also literally dozens of North American and
other senior colleagues on generally short term visits to the
campus. Unfortunately the elimination of budgetary
resources led to the discontinuance of foreign scholars' lon-
ger term invitations.

The department gained further recognition by the
acceptance of tenure home status of University of Wiscon-
sin System President John C. Weaver (1971-1979) and
UWM Chancellor Werner A. Baum (1973-1979). After an
interim year, geographer Frank C. Horton accepted a tenure
appointment concurrent with his years (1980-1985) as
Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

The distinguished urbanist Harold M. Mayer joined the
department in 1974 to enrich the departmental specialization
in urban geography. The department has also offered from
the onset graduate emphases in Latin America and climato-
logy. With the acquisition of the American Geographical
Society Collection, a coordinated masters degree program
encompassing the School of Library and Information Sci-
ence and the Department of Geography was also established.

Field work, a Wisconsin geography tradition, originated
in the earliest days of the Normal School. In 1973 Professor
Haglund inaugurated what is believed to be the only universi-
ty-based Arctic Winter Field Course in the hemisphere, and in 1982 a tropical counterpoint concentrating on Belize, Central America was established by Professor Michael J. Day, who joined the department from the United Kingdom in 1977.

Under the strenuous efforts of Professor Robert Eidt and his students, particularly Robert Brinkmann, the only State Soils Laboratory in an urban setting was created within the department in the early 1980s.

There were few personnel changes throughout the decade of the 1980s; in fact, only two new faculty members have come to the department since Dr. Day’s arrival. Unfortunately these additions were offset by the tragic deaths of Professor Flannery in February 1987 and Professor Eidt in June of the same year. Professor John Brian Harley was recruited to UWM in 1986 from his native Britain, where he had established an international reputation as a historian of cartography. Professor Sona K. Andrews, formerly cartographer at the prestigious University of Minnesota Department of Geography, joined the staff in 1988. Both were attracted by the presence of a world-class library.

The formal celebration of one hundred years of geography at UWM coincided with the centennial of the Normal School in the autumn of 1985. Ceremonies took place, appropriately, within the confines of the AGS Collection.

The second century of the geography program at UWM, now underway, will shortly face drastic change. The decade of the 1990s will see the retirement of most of the present faculty. Plans are already being made for a complete physical relocation in a few years to a remodelled campus facility in Bolton Hall. New technologies and methodologies are already having a major impact on the discipline. One can only wildly speculate on what the chronicler of geography at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee will have to report in 2090.