

RANDY GABRYS ALEXSON

Professor Emeritus
Earth Sciences Program (Natural Sciences Department)
University of Wisconsin-Superior
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EDUCATION

Certificate Program - July, 1999 -June, 2000 - 8 credits - Full Fellowship to the Colorado School of Mines for the Earth, Space, and Science Technological Education Project sponsored by the National Geological Society.

Ph.D.- Geography Education, The Union Institute University, 1999, - ‘An Evaluation of the Effectiveness of the Wisconsin Geographic Alliance Education Program’ Chair, Michael Patton, Ph.D. Research Areas and Interests - geography education, evaluation, integration of environmental and human geography studies, racism and social justice, international education issues

M.A.- Speech Communication, University of Wisconsin-Superior, 1987, Department of Speech Communication.
Thesis- ‘A Study of the Effect of Slasher Genre Films on Adolescent Behavior -A Rural Versus Urban Demographic Comparison’ Chair, William Stock, Ph.D.
Research Area - the geographic and demographic aspects of human behavioral patterns as influenced by media portrayals

B.S. - Geography, University of Wisconsin-Superior, 1983, Department of Geosciences.
Senior Research Project- “A Spatial History of Superior, Wisconsin” Chair, Su Chang Wang, Ph.D.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Professor, (2006-2015) Earth Sciences Program, University of Wisconsin-Superior
Provide general education courses, core and elective courses for all education majors, and core courses for Transportation and Logistics Management majors. Created GIS minor/certification program and geography minor for liberal education and teacher education certification, and a graduate-level AP geography preparation course.
Experience includes: mentor for McNair Scholar’s Program, account custodian for \$10,000+ AOL grant and two consecutive three-year UW System grants.

Associate Professor – UW-Superior (2001-2006)

Instructor – UW-Superior (1987-2001)

National Geographic Society Teaching Consultant (1996-present),

Northwest Wisconsin Region - the first certified teacher consultant north of Spooner in Wisconsin.

Responsible for in-service and individual instruction to area K-12 teachers as well as pre-service education majors at UWS through the National Geographic Alliance.

Accountable for the integration of geography into both social and physical science curricula as mandated by state guidelines. Guide development of evaluation and assessment tools.

Professional Evaluator (2000-present) Worked for Cambridge Studios, Boston, MA conducting evaluations and assessment of educational materials including an eight-part National Geographic teacher professional development series that was funded by Annenberg/CPB Corporation and a multimedia CD-ROM series for McGraw-Hill Publishers that was funded by the National Science Foundation. Continue in this position with Wiley Publishers.

Author for John Wiley and Sons Publishers – Work includes AP Student Guide for Human Geography 7e and Virtual Field Guide web site, Exploring World Physical Geography testing materials, and numerous projects for Realms, Regions, and Concepts textbook as well as Strahler geology.

Professor Distance Learning Center, University of Wisconsin-Superior – Have developed Cultural (GEOG 102), World Regional (GEOG 100), Earth Science (GEOL 170), Economic (GEOG 302), Urban Planning (GEOG 402), Geography of Wisconsin (GEOG 350), Human Biogeography (GEOG 481) and Research in Geography for Teachers (GEOG 450) to non-traditional students in an independent format since 1987.

COURSES DEVELOPED

World Regional Geography (GEOG 100) - Two sections (minimum) were taught per year on-campus starting in 1987; also developed course for DL in 1987.

Cultural Geography (GEOG 102) – Two sections taught per year on-campus 1987; also developed for DL. The course has been offered online to selected high school seniors who received scholarships as part of the America Online grant on which I was PI.

Earth Science (GEOL 170) – Two-four sections were taught per year starting in 1990. Also developed for DL in 1990.

Cartographic Analysis and Design (GEOG 240) - Developed new course proposal that was approved by all governance bodies on UW-Superior campus in 2000.

Principles of GIS (GEOG 242) - Developed new course proposal that was approved by all

governance bodies on UW-Superior campus in 2000.

Elements of Cartography (GEOG 281) - Two sections offered since 1989 as a special topics course through Continuing Education and Extension.

Geography of Travel and Tourism (GEOG 281) - Two sections offered in the late 1980s and early 1990s as a special topics course through Continuing Education and Extension.

Economic Geography (GEOG 302) - Two sections taught per year 1998 (was previously offered four times since 1987 as a special topics course through Continuing Education and Extension) and has been developed for DL. It is a required course for Transportation and Logistics Management majors.

Biogeography (BIOL 312) - Developed print manual format for Distance Learning in 1990. Continued teaching the course until 2001.

Advanced Principles of GIS (GEOG 342) - Developed new course proposal that was approved by all governance bodies on UW-Superior campus in 2000.

Urban Planning and Transportation Systems (GEOG 402) - One section taught every other year beginning in 1999 with both print manual and online versions developed for Distance Learning. This course is a major elective for Transportation and Logistics Management majors.

Management and Implementation of GIS (GEOG 432) - Developed new course proposal that was approved by all governance bodies on UW-Superior campus in 2000.

Geography of Wisconsin (GEOG 350) - Three sections offered since 1988 as a special topics course through Continuing Education and Extension and in September, 2002 developed for oncampus and DLP geography minor, both print and online format.

Advanced Topics in Human/ Environment Interaction (GEOG 357) - was developed in 2015 to replace Human Biogeography.

Research in Geography for Teachers (GEOG 450) One section every year since 1990 as an elective (initially) for Broad Field Science majors and now a requirement for geography minor in elementary and secondary education.

The Geography of Difference (GEOG 481/WST 490) Taught spring semester 2001 and summer 2005 as a cross-listed course with Women's Studies. There has been no funding to continue this course.

Human Biogeography (GEOG/BIOL 481/681) Team taught this course spring semester 2002. The course was developed following attendance at the Woman and Science Curriculum Reform Institute. With no funds to continue offering in the face-to-face format it was developed as an online course in 2004.

GIS For In-Service Teachers (GEOG 681) Workshop format course that introduced practicing teachers to GIS and pedagogical issues related to integrating this technology into their existing curriculum.

GPS For In-Service Teachers (GEOG 681) Workshop format course that introduced practicing teachers to GPS and pedagogical issues related to integrating this technology into their existing curriculum.

Image Processing For In-Service Teachers (GEOG 681) Workshop format course that introduced practicing teachers to Image Processing and pedagogical issues related to integrating this technology into their existing curriculum.

Teens in a Cultural World (YOUTH SUMMER PROGRAM) Taught this as a week-long course 7 times beginning in 1987.

RESEARCH INTERESTS AND PROJECTS

- Geographic education and the future of geography on local, national, and international levels is my primary area of research and interest. The United States Goals 2000 program was designed to promote geographic literacy K-university and my area of expertise is the implementation and evaluation of these initiatives. I worked with evaluation developer, Michael Patton, Ph.D., author of “Utilization Focused Evaluation” to develop a research strategy to evaluate the National Geographic Education Programs.

- Academic Service Learning (AS-L) is a high impact practice I have been involved in for many years, serving on the AS-L steering committee, developing AS-L components for both a F2F and an online course and, most recently, the Earth Sciences program received the Engaged Program grant for 2012-2014. A book chapter, co-authored with three departmental colleagues was published in 2014 and an additional AS-L paper was in-progress with Earth Science program colleague, Dr. Riker-Coleman, when she was denied tenure so that paper has not come to fruition.

- I was a member of the American Evaluation Association and completed two evaluation projects for Cambridge Studios. The first was an evaluation of an eight-part National Geographic graduate-teacher workshop series that was funded by the Annenberg/CPB Foundation and broadcast on PBS. The second project is a multimedia project created for McGraw Hill Publishing and funded by NSF. I continue to do evaluation work for Wiley Publishers, when time allows.

- I have completed numerous writing projects for John Wiley Publishers. The first project was an AP student manual to accompany Human Geography: Culture, Society and Space by H. DeBlij (ISBN 0-471-27358-9) and the second project was a website I designed, along with 41 active

learning laboratory lessons I wrote that were posted on this site. More recently, focus is on World Regional geography and Earth Science/geology materials with an average of one project completed each summer. Work has evolved into primarily multimedia projects.

- Certified Teaching Consultant with National Geographic Society and am responsible for all K-12 schools in northwestern Wisconsin. Beyond the required duties of conducting in-service and in-class support, when requested. I have created my own extension to the support network by developing a print and computer library of thousands of geography integrated lesson plans. I authored many of the lessons which are available to pre-service students and practicing teachers. When The National Geographic Society awarded Wisconsin its “endowment” for the support of Geography Education, it was awarded on the UWS campus. Gil Grosvener, President of National Geographic, travelled to Superior to present the \$500,000 endowment to the state largely due to the efforts of our local Senator, Bob Jauch.

- A two –year \$10,000+ grant from America Online has also enabled me to offer online courses to rural, isolated, socioeconomically impoverished high school students in northwestern Wisconsin to begin taking college courses early. This project was highly publicized by the local media and I developed an evaluation model for the project.

- Completed two consecutive three-year University of Wisconsin System Technology grants providing workshops and financial assistance to secondary teachers to help them integrate GIS, GPS, and Image Processing into their existing curriculum.

PUBLICATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Riker, Coleman, K., Danz, N., Arnhold-Davies, M., Gabrys-Alexson, R. (2014) Cultivating the Sciences with Service-Learning at a Regional University. (chapter 12) *Sage Press*.

Gabrys Alexson, R & Stewart, R. (2012) Team Teaching Urban Planning and Transportation Systems. *Journal of Urban and Extraurban Studies*. Vol. 2, Issue 1, pp. 27-38.

Gabrys Alexson, R (2011) *Academic Service-Learning in a Freshman-Level Online Earth Science Course*. NY, NY: Association of American Geographer’s National Meeting.

Gabrys Alexson, R (2009) *Using Image Processing to Enhance Teaching and Learning*. Las Vegas, NV: Association of American Geographer’s National Meeting.

Gabrys Alexson, R. (2007) *An Online Teacher Preparation Model for Pre- and In-Service Geography Teachers*. Oklahoma City, OK: National Council for Geographic Education National Conference.

Gabrys Alexson, R., Kemnitz, C., Bell, S., & Hardwick, S. (2005) Embarking on Collaborative Research in Geography Education. *Journal of International Research in Geographical and Environmental Education*. Vol. 14, n. 3, pp. 43-51.

- Gabrys Alexson, R. (2005) "Graduate-Level Professional Development Opportunities for In-Service Teachers: Helping to Meet No Child Left Behind (N200CLB) Mandates." *Planet Learning and Teaching on Master's Programmes in Geography, Earth and Environmental Science* Special Edition.
- Gabrys Alexson, R. (2004) *A Model for Teacher Secondary Professional Development in GIS and GPS*. Philadelphia, PA . Association of American Geographer's National Meeting.
- Gabrys Alexson, R. & Kemnitz, C. (2004). Curriculum Articulation in the State of Wisconsin: Where Are We Going Wrong and What Have We Learned? *Educational Review Quarterly*. Vol. 28, n. 2, pp.19-29.
- Gabrys Alexson, R. (2003). *Curriculum Articulation Initiatives in the State of Wisconsin* New Orleans, LA: Association of American Geographer's National Meeting.
- Gabrys Alexson, R & Kemnitz, C. (2002). *Block Scheduling and Team Teaching: Integrating Biology and Geography*. Philadelphia, PA: National Council for Geographic Education National Conference.
- Hardwick, S., Gabrys Alexson, R., Kemnitz, C. & Bell, S. (2002). *Spatially-Impacted Perceptions of Diversity*. Philadelphia, PA: National Council for Geographic Education National Conference.
- Kemnitz, C. & Gabrys Alexson, R. (2002). *Pedagogical Differences in Team-Teaching an Integrated Course in Geography and Biology at the University-Level*. Los Angeles, CA: Association of American Geographer's National Conference.
- Gabrys Alexson, R. & Kemnitz, C. (2001). The World Bank Scenario: A Problem-Based Learning Activity in Human Geography and Environmental Science. *Planet*. pp. 25-26.
- Gabrys Alexson, R. (2001). *Epistemological and Methodological Issues Related to Graduate Research in Geography Education*. New York, NY: Association of American Geographer's National Conference. (Also presented synopsis of this paper at the UW-Superior Dean's Colloquium on March 29, 2001)
- Gabrys Alexson, R. (2001). *Initiating Si-Net Mentor Group for Master's and Ph.D. level Students in Geography Education*. Vancouver, British Columbia: National Council for Geographic Education National Conference.
- Kemnitz, C. & Gabrys Alexson, R. (2001) *Human Biogeography: A New Subdiscipline?* Vancouver, British Columbia: National Council for Geographic Education National Conference.
- Gabrys Alexson, R. (2001). *Integrating University and Middle School Through use of GIS*. Vancouver, British Columbia: National Council for Geographic Education National Conference.

- Gabrys Alexson, R. (2000). *Draft of AP Geography Training Course*. Chicago, Illinois: National Council for Geographic Education National Conference.
- Gabrys Alexson, R. (1999). *Classroom Evaluations of the Effectiveness of the State Alliance Training Programs - A Model*. Boston, Massachusetts: National Council for Geographic Education National Conference.
- Gabrys Alexson, R. (1998). *Geography in the Social Studies Classroom*. Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Wisconsin Geographic Alliance Annual Conference.
- Gabrys Alexson, R. (1998). *Initiating a Cooperative Program Between American and British Geography Educators*. Newcastle, England. Newcastle Consortium.
- Gabrys Alexson, R. (1998). *Curandera Methodology of Native American Cultures*. Oaxaca, Mexico: Institute de Oaxaca.
- Clay, S. & Gabrys Alexson, R. (1996) *Does 'Mr. Help' Actually Help Students Learn the Five Themes of Geography?* Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Wisconsin Geographic Alliance Annual Conference.

STUDENT SUPERVISED RESEARCH – PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS
(partial list)

- GEOL 170 (Earth Science) AS-L projects. Although part of a class, in 2014 alone, 77 students completed AS-L projects with 77 different partner agencies under my supervision.
- Kevin Jenkins (2014) *Another Inconvenient Truth - Indian Boarding Schools* – IDS 495
(presented at URSCA on the UWS campus)
- Patrick Schmidtke (2014) ESRI GIS Modules – GEOG 498
- Kevin Jenkins (2014) *Irish Immigration to Wisconsin* – GEOG 498
- GEOG/TRSP 402 – (2013) Academic Service-Learning project “Feasibility of Water Taxi Service Duluth/Superior.” Although part of class, this project is a significant outside of class commitment, culminating in a public presentation in May in the UWS YU Great Room as well as URSCA and Posters in the Rotunda in Madison.
- Bloy, Kristin (2013) *The Socio-Economic Determinants of Communicable Diseases in Wisconsin* – IDS 495
- Kramer, Ashlee (2012) *Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder: Post Combat Care of Army Reserve Veterans* – IDS 495

Ocariz, Jose (2011) *The Influence of Spanish Colonization on North American Art* – IDS 495

Bamanie, Nuray (2011) *Globalization and Saudi Youth* - IDS 495

Rasmussen, Terra (2011) – *Socioeconomic Impact of Planned Community Gardens* – IDS 495

Schnurrer, Dave (2010) (SOC 498 Senior Thesis) *Stigmas in Society*

Four Geog/TRSP 402 students presented at the Governor's Poster Presentation in Madison, WI, April 09.

Gilane, William (2006) *Preservation of Native American Burial Grounds versus WSDOT initiatives*. GEOG 498.

Dockter, Kathy (submitted October, 2003). Predictors of Student Success in an Online Course. *International Journal of Online Learning*.

Bruce, L. & Wimpe, J. (October, 2002). *Perceptions of Diversity of the UW-Superior Campus and Community Applications*. Graduate student research presented at the Regional UW Extension Conference.

Dockter, Kathy (August, 2002). Predictors of Student Success in an Online Course. *McNair Scholar Journal*.

Carlson, C., Delacy, D., et al (2002). *Superior Port Development Plan*. Presented at the 4th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium. University of Wisconsin-Superior.

Jensen, J. & Cisneros, A. (2002). *Assessment of Different Pedagogical Styles Within an Interdisciplinary Course*. Presented at the 4th annual Undergraduate Research Symposium. University of Wisconsin-Superior. This research was supported by a UW-Superior Foundation Fellowship.

JOURNAL AND TEXTBOOK REVIEWS

Author not Identified (Reviewed June, 2005) Workshop Study: A Modified Lesson Study Model for Analysis of Professional Development Opportunities. *Current Issues in Education* (recommended minor revision and publication)

Author not identified (Reviewed October, 2004) Personal Connections in the Classroom or Higher Test Scores" *Current Issues in Education* (recommended not publishing at this time – suggested major revision and resubmission)

Human Geography by Grenier textbook proposal for John Wiley and Son's Publisher's. Reviewed 27 pp. proposal for execution, comparative value, and adoption potential.

Reviewed August, 2004.

Seeing the World Geographically: Introduction to Geography, by Christopher Salter, textbook review – four chapters reviewed for Brooks/Cole Publisher's. Reviewed June, 2004.

Human Geography in Action, 3e by Kuby – Review of chapters 6,7,9. Reviewed February, 2004.

Author not identified (Reviewed May, 2003) Politically Activating Pre-service Teachers. *Current Issues in Education* (recommended major revision and resubmission)

Powell, W. (Reviewed March, 2002) Essential Design Elements for Successful Online Courses. *Journal of Geoscience Education* (recommended publication with minor revisions)

Burnley, P. (Reviewed July, 2001) An Earth Science Scrapbook Project as an Alternative Assessment Tool. *Journal of Geoscience Education* (recommended publication with major revisions)

GRANTS

UW-Superior Academic Service Learning Engaged Program Grant – 2012-14 (Kristin Riker-Coleman, PI)

UW-System grant Technology Connections across the Curriculum (TC) accepted for 3-year funding. This is another professional development series for in-service teachers in Superior and Bayfield. Funding total for the three-year duration of the program of \$128,244.00

UW-System Technology Initiatives PK-16 grant was approved for the three-year graduate-level professional development program in GIS, GPS, and Image Processing for local middle and high school teachers titled, "Superior Technology for Awesome Teachers" (STAT) Total grant monies awarded for the entire three-year program was \$75,502.00.

GRANT REVIEWER - for UW-System Women and Science On-Campus Initiatives grant proposals (May and October, 2004)

Women and Science On-Campus Initiatives grant (2002) to fund a semester-long program during spring 2003 called "Celebrating Women and Science" on the UW-Superior campus. \$800.

America On-Line (AOL)- 2000-2002- education grant to offer general education courses on-line to students in six spatially isolated high schools in northern Wisconsin - \$10,000+ for two-year funding

UW-Superior Foundation Fellowship – 2001 – to hire two undergraduate students to conduct research on interdisciplinary pedagogical issues. \$2000.

Curriculum Articulation Project Funding - 2001 - to travel to CESA 12 high school Advanced Placement classrooms and meet with teachers and students in order to ease transition to college - \$1,159.92

UW-Superior Foundation Grant - 2000 - to travel as invited speaker at the Association of American Geographer's annual meeting (discuss epistemological and methodological issues related to graduate research in geography education) New York, February 2001 - \$600.00.

UW-Superior Foundation Grant - 2000 - to travel to Governor's Wisconsin Educational Technology Conference in Madison, WI October, 2000 - \$250.00

UW-Superior Foundation Grant - 1999 - to travel to Southwest Texas University to collaborate with Drs. Susan Hardwick and Brock Brown on AP Human Geography course and develop GIS certification program - \$700.00

Wisconsin Humanities Council, Sesquicentennial Grant - 1998 - Promote education of Wisconsin history through presentations, lectures, photo display, and creation of Web page. \$6,142.00

AWARDS

2008- National Council for Geographic Education - Teaching Excellence National Award Recipient

2002- National Geographic Society State Geographic Alliance Endowment was presented to the State Alliance at the UW-Superior campus. Gil Grosvenor, President and CEO of the National Geographic Society, distributed the award personally and delivered a presentation to students and staff while on our campus. \$1,000,000

2002- National Science Foundation Scholarship to attend the Advanced Evaluator's Institute at the American Evaluator's Association. \$750

2001 - University of Wisconsin – Superior - Excellence in Scholarship Award.

2000- National Science Foundation Scholarship to attend the UW System Curriculum Reform Institute. \$1250

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIPS

American Evaluation Association – 2001-2014

Association of American Geographers, 1990-present

National Council for Geographic Education, 1995-present

National Geographic Society, 1981-present

International Network for Learning and Teaching Geography - 1999-present

Board of Director's, Wisconsin Cartographer's Guild, Madison, Wisconsin, 1997-present.
-Coordinated presentation of Guild's new publication at UW-Superior campus - 1998.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Represented the University as one of 18 invited authors to participate in the Wiley Publisher *Transforming Science Education* Summit in Celebration, Florida in March, 2014.

Steering Committee for Distance Learning Community of Practice member (2012-2015)

Campus representative for the UW-System Flex Degree Initiative (the committee charge was completed in January 2013, and I agreed to remain on the advisory committee after completion.)

Serve as elementary education science minor department contact person in the absence of science education faculty. (2011-2015)

UW-System Women and Science Horizontal Mentoring Program member (2012-2015)

Campus Technology Advisory Committee – 2012-13 term

Interim Natural Sciences Department Co-Chair, Spring term 2012

DLC Strategic Planning Committee (2009)

Faculty Senate Representative, University of Wisconsin-Superior – Fall term 2008

University of Wisconsin- Superior – Chair – Continuing Education and Extension Committee – 2007-2012

University of Wisconsin – Superior – Academic Service Learning Committee – 2006- 2011

University of Wisconsin – Superior – Global Studies Advisory Committee – 2008- 2011

University of Wisconsin-Superior – Chair - Institutional Review Board – 2005-2007 term

University of Wisconsin-Superior –Faculty Personnel Council, Elected Member - 2001-2004

Faculty Senate Representative, University of Wisconsin-Superior - 2001-2004

Distance Learning Program Task Force – 2003-2004

Task Force on Student Health Care – Chair of Chancellor Appointed Committee – 2001-2003.

UW System Curriculum Articulation Agreement for CESA 12 - 2000-2002

Attended the UW-System National Institute of Health and World Health Organization workshop
– July, 2002.

Invited to speak at UW-Superior Dean’s Colloquium -Faculty presentation of “Epistemological
and Methodological Issues Related to Geography Education” March 29, 2001.

ELS (English as Second Language) Program - accommodate requests from Robert Kosuth to
allow students to participate fully in on-campus courses.

Strategic Planning Town Meetings - Attend and participate 2000-2001 academic year.

Multicultural Affairs Council, University of Wisconsin-Superior, 1996-2000.

Chair, registration committee for the Multicultural Student Conference that was held
April 22-24, 1999 at UW-Superior with over 300 students attending.

UW-System Women and Science Program

UW-Superior Faculty Representative – 2001-2003

Annual Retreat, May 2000, 2001

Advisory Board – 2001-2003

Curriculum Reform Institute, June 2000 (team received a \$1250.00 scholarship)

Hosted Distance Learning for Effective Advisors workshop on our campus - 2001

Attended Governor’s Wisconsin Educational Technology Conference in Madison, WI - October,
2000 to learn new, innovative instructional methods for delivering online instruction.

Represent UW-Superior as a “Superior Days” lobbying delegate to Madison, WI. 1996-present

Student Health Services Council, UW-Superior, 1995-1998.

Co-chair of the Chancellor appointed Mediation Task Force - 1999-2000

Appointed member of the Status of Women Committee - 1998-2001

Search Committee, Director of Distance Learning, UW-Superior, 2002

Search Committee, GIS Faculty, UW-Superior, 2001.

Search Committee, Geology (Biology) Department, UW-Superior, 1997.

Search Committee, Director of Continuing Education and Extension, UW-Superior, 1999

Consultant, Department of Business and Economics Program Development of new major in Transportation Studies, UW-Superior, 1997.

Cartography Competition Judge, UW-Superior sponsored event for statewide elementary and secondary schools 1988-90.