department of GEOGRAPHY & ENVRONMENT

SPRING 2023

Drone photo taken by Geography PhD student DEVON MALONEY in the Savanes Region of Northern Togo for a study on fine-scale remote sensing signals of land degradation in dryland West Africa during July 2022.

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LETTER from the Chair

o you remember the 'a-ha!' moment when you fell in love with geography and you found yourself on a path in life that you just didn't anticipate? Mine happened somewhat late in my academic career. I was working on my MA in Public Policy at CU Boulder when I enrolled in my first Geography graduate seminar. It was a gem of a class with six students, teamtaught by Anthony (Tony) Bebbington and Simon Batterbury. We thought we were there to learn about how people living in rural places make a living, but instead we were asked to think about how life is also made meaningful. Everything that we discussed and read in that class made sense to me, and it was inspiring. I applied for doctoral study, Tony became my advisor for my PhD, and I became a card-carrying geographer.

Our department has proven that excellence in geographic thought must be built on the cornerstone of diversity and inclusion.

I was reminded of this 'a-ha' moment when valued alumni and true friend of our department, Alex Robertson, shared some insights about his remarkable father, the late Julian H. Robertson. As Julian's New York Times obituary attests, he was a "geography" nut," a term I think most of us here would feel very comfortable adopting. We are humbled and thrilled that Alex has decided to honor his father's love of geography by establishing the Julian H. Robertson, Jr. Geography Fund to support Geography majors participating in a research or study abroad experience. We are so excited to initiate the inaugural class of Julian H Robertson, Jr. students next year, and we can't wait to share the stories of some of these new "geography nuts" in next year's newsletter.

Another passionate UNC Geography alum, Dr. E. Joan Miller, continues to surprise us even several years after her passing. Dr. Miller was honored in our 2016 newsletter, but we would have needed many more pages to do justice to her stories. Whenever we spoke on the phone, she usually teased me about a gift she was leaving to the department, and then would tell me that I would just need to "wait and see" what it might be. Well, let's just say that an actual check arrived in the mail this year, and it was a doozy. Dr. Miller was a major champion of the graduate students whose brilliance and labor make the department function, and her gift will make a significant impact on our ability to support them with summer funding.

This is my final year as Chair of the department. I'm incredibly proud of what we've been able to accomplish together during these five years. This year alone, we launched a new undergraduate curriculum. IDEAS in Action, that continues to ask a lot from our faculty and TAs and hopefully will pay back in spades for our students. We have hired a new faculty member, Ruth Matamoros-Mercado, who you will meet next year and who we can't wait to welcome to Chapel Hill. We have tied up some long-standing goals such as renaming the department so that more students understand the scope of our offerings. We now consistently over-enroll our classes, and we are one of the core departments in the College of Arts & Sciences' programming in data science. As our next Chair, Dr. Conghe Song is already a thought leader in many of these areas. We couldn't wish for a better scholar and human for moving forward our endeavors.

Regrets? I've had a few. Mostly, I wish that I could have celebrated every bit of exceptional scholarship and service around me with the enthusiasm and attention that it deserves. Our department has proven that excellence in geographic thought must be built on the cornerstone of diversity and inclusion. I often feel awash in excellence, with too many grants, publications, student honors to keep track of. I realize this is a good problem to have. And so I will end with my best shot at a blanket remedy:

To my colleagues, graduate students, undergraduates, and our cherished office staff, your brilliance and passion is overwhelming. Thank you, I'm so grateful to be a part of it.

ELIZABETH OLSON

Professor and Chair Elizabetholm

ou may have noticed something different on the cover of this year's newsletter. Our department is getting a new name! Starting on July 1, 2023, we will officially be the **DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENT**. Although this change may come as a surprise to many readers, it has been in the works for quite some time (since fall of 2017).

There are numerous reasons why the change makes sense; the most important one is probably the most simple: the study of the environment is central to the discipline of **geography**. Geography is a synergistic subject that incorporates field- and lab-based research and teaching across the natural, social, and spatial sciences. The natural and social realms of the environment are thoroughly integrated in our discipline, as is the global reach of our faculty's knowledge and experience. As researchers and teachers, we explore coupled human-natural systems based on a geographic understanding that dimensions of human activity have a bearing on non-human environments just as non-human environments interact with human behaviors and values.



Socioeconomic Environmental Systems (Photo by Sophia Graybill).

STUDENT NEWS

KRIDDIE WHITMORE was awarded Student Research Grants from the Society of Wetland Scientists and the Geological Society of America (including an "outstanding mention" designation for being one of the top 10 proposals).

GUAC (the Geography Undergraduate Advisory Committee) organized an event titled "Research in Geography," which focused on how (and why) undergraduates can get involved in research.

What's in a NAME?

Rice paddy fields in Pyuthan District, Western Nepal, which is the location of CONGHE SONG's research project on the Influence of Community Forestry on the Dynamics of the Integrated

Geographic approaches to studying the environment inherently reach beyond disciplinary expertise to connect with other fields. Here at UNC, our faculty and students routinely link the natural and social sciences to investigate, for example, ecology and environmental systems, environmental sustainability, food systems, medicine and health, climate change adaptation and resilience, environmental justice and ethics, resource and conservation policy, and nature-society linkages. Geography's expansive vision and integrative approach explains why geographers are central figures in interdisciplinary units across campus, including the Galapagos Science Center, the Southeast Regional Climate Center, the Carolina Population Center, and the Carolina Sustainability Council, to name but a few.

INGRID DIAZ MORENO received the Off-Campus Dissertation Research Fellowship from the UNC Graduate School and the Dissertation Fieldwork Grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation

GEORGINA GEMAYEL was awarded both Summer and Academic Year FLAS Awards to study Arabic.

SARAH FOLLOWILL and GREY SHIPMAN received the G. Herbert Stout Awards for Innovative Student Papers.

CARLOS SERRANO was awarded a Summer Research Fellowship from the UNC Graduate School.

MICHELLE PADLEY received a Dissertation Completion Fellowship from the UNC Graduate School.

SUAD JABR was featured in UNC Research Publication Endeavors for their thesis work on the identity of Middle Eastern refugees in the LGBTQIA+ community

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UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PROFILE



Senam **ADEDZE**

MAJOR Geography MINORS Data Science and French

How did you find geography?

All my classes have been interconnected despite being in different tracks, so I can really build on my own interdisciplinary interests!

I found the Geography major in a very roundabout way. At the end of my sophomore year, I attended a friend of a friend's graduation party, and she happened to be a Geography major. After a 5-minute conversation about the major, I was sold.

How have your interests in Geography changed since you declared?

I originally planned to follow the Geography of Health and Disease track. I still take quite a few classes for this track, but I often find myself choosing classes outside the health and disease, especially those on the Diversity Justice and the Political Ecology track. All my classes have been interconnected despite being in different tracks, so I can really build on my own interdisciplinary interests!

What are looking forward to most in your Senior year?

I'm most looking forward to working on the Geography Undergraduate Advisory Committee (GUAC) to plan events, provide a place where Geography students can meet, and increase the presence of the Geography department among undergraduates on campus.

NDREINA MALKI, UNC Geography PhD candidate, was awarded with two highly competitive fellowships for her research in the Spring of 2023. The first is the Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellowship, which supports graduate students in the humanities and social sciences who show promise of leading their fields in important new directions. The fellowship is designed to provide time and support for emerging scholars' innovative



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

approaches to dissertation research – practical, trans- or interdisciplinary, collaborative, critical, or methodological. The second is the Off-Campus Dissertation Research Fellowship from the UNC Graduate School, which provides funding for one semester to students with an exceptional academic record, a clearly demonstrated research project, and a need to conduct research off campus.

Tracing Racial Capitalism in Place: Indigenous Dispossession, Plantations, and Private Immigrant **Incarceration in North Carolina**

This research project asks how racial capitalism is reproduced in the US South. The Rivers Correctional Institution (RCI) is a Criminal Alien Requirement prison in Hertford County, North Carolina that is located on the former site of a plantation, which in turn, was established on dispossessed land of the Meherrin Nation. This research employs a mixed-methods public humanities methodology to explore why, in its centuries-long history, racialized confinement and private profit are continuously coupled in place, though in distinct forms over time. It explores this reproduction in and through the law, relationships between private capital and the state, and material landscape changes at historic junctures of indigenous dispossession, plantation enslavement, and private immigrant incarceration. Research outputs include a multi-media, interactive digital public history of the site sourced from archival and contemporary materials.



INTRODUCING the Incoming Chair

ONGHE SONG will assume the role of Chair of the UNC Department of Geography and Environment on July 1, 2023. Dr. Song joined the faculty of UNC Geography as an Assistant Professor in 2001 after completing his PhD at Boston University. In 2007, he was granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor. He was promoted to the rank of Professor in 2014. In addition to being an extremely successful researcher, teacher, and mentor, Dr. Song has held numerous leadership positions within the department and the university, including serving as Associate Chair and Director of the GIScience Graduate Certificate Program.

What are your favorite aspects of UNC Geography?

Interdisciplinary scholarship in the department is my favorite aspect of Geography. Expertise in our department spans the entire Geography Continuum. Such an interdisciplinary department serves the undergraduate and graduate students well. It is also a great environment for faculty to develop research teams to address complex problems in the real world.

How has the department changed since you arrived in 2001?

The department has changed a lot since I arrived both in terms of personnel make-up and expertise. Our department has many young senior faculty now. reflecting the success of our faculty. Many of our senior faculty are expanding their research portfolio to become increasingly interdisciplinary. This is a great trend which aligns well with Growing Convergence Research, one of the 10 big ideas at the National Science Foundation.

As chair, what are some of your priorities for the department in the upcoming years?

My top priority is to promote Geospatial Data Science in the College of Arts and Sciences and on campus with Geography as the leader. My second priority is equity of faculty salary and graduate student stipend with peer institutions. The third priority is promotion of diversity, equity and inclusiveness in the broadest sense in our Department.



A team of recent graduates from the Institute of Forestry (IOF) at Tribhuvan University completed a training program on household surveying in Kathmandu, Nepal led by scholars from UNC-Chapel Hill and NCSU. Shortly after, the team embarked on two months of data collection in Western Nepal.

Conghe SONG



I am humbled by the selection and excited for the opportunities to continue to strengthen **Geography at UNC.**

What were the successes in Betsy's term as chair that you would like to build on?

I will continue to promote DEI in the department in the broadest sense. Promote Geospatial Data Science, which I believe can be called the second revolution in Geography after the quantitative revolution in the 1960s.

Is there anyone that played an important role in your life that led you to this leadership position?

The strong support from the colleagues in the Department and the vision alignment from the Deans for Geospatial Data Science were important factors. The other person is my wife. Although she did not make me take this leadership position, I know I can rely on her for support.

NEW FACULTY Spotlight

Chérie **RIVERS** NDALIKO Associate Professor

Please tell us about your research

As a socially engaged scholar, I prioritize research that contributes to both academic discourse and activism. Currently I am engaged in a multifaceted project that examines diverging conceptions of land, food production, and human-earth relationships. In the academic portion of this project, I investigate legal and economic colonial legacies – from the Doctrines of Discovery to HOA bylaws-that undergird dominant global paradigms of agriculture and land rights; simultaneously, I examine Black and indigenous practices of liberatory place making, both historic and contemporary.

Amanda DELVECCHIA Assistant Professor and

Voit Gilmore Fellow

How did you find geography?

Over the course of my scientific journey, I have expanded from intensive, site-specific studies of ecology, to progressively more spatiotemporally broad questions in an effort to understand the importance and applicability of these site-specific findings. At the point when the UNC Geography position was advertised, I had been gravitating toward a more geographical approach to understanding freshwater biogeochemistry, specifically greenhouse gas flux and energetic processes, and daydreaming about working with a team to approach these questions. The more I learned about the various approaches and interdisciplinarity within UNC Geography, the more excited I became about a home for this research.

Interview with Amanda continues on Page 17

What were you doing before joining UNC Geography?

I was a research scientist at Duke University, mainly leading an NSF Macrosystems-funded project with the goal of using National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) data to predict continuous greenhouse gas flux from 28 stream reaches across the US. Our goal is to synthesize and use this data, complement it with local data collection, and then expand to a prediction framework for other streams across the US and more broadly.

The department attitude is one of mutual support, empathy, learning, teaching, and respect, and that working environment is incredibly productive for learning and considering new approaches.



PAUL TAILLE looks out over a forest/marsh ecotone resulting from saltwater exposure in a coastal wetland, one of the most vulnerable regions of the world to rising sea level (photo by Lindsey Smart).

Please tell us about your research

As a freshwater ecology and biogeochemistry lab, our work focuses on interactions between abiotic and biotic processes across varying scales. The movement (or lack thereof) of water across different landscapes creates a physical and chemical template with which organisms like microbes and invertebrates interact. We study how these interactions affect the way that carbon and nitrogen is transformed, emitted, and transported, sometimes specifically through food webs, or through the emission of greenhouse gases.

How did you find geography?

For much of my early career, I actually didn't think much about geography. The biggest things on my mind were animal ecology, biodiversity conservation, and global change. As my thinking and experience developed, I realized the types of questions I found most interesting, the methods I was using to answer them, and the people with whom I was collaborating were rooted in geography.

What are your favorite parts about being a UNC Geography faculty member thus far?

I'm pretty excited about teaching right now. I had some teaching experience before coming to UNC, but not a lot. I was pretty sure that I would like it, but I did not expect it to be one of my favorite parts of my job. Maybe it's because I spent the majority of my postdoc in my office by myself, but I really love interacting with students in the classroom and have learned so much in a short time.

Please tell us about your research

At the broadest level, my research is aimed at conserving biodiversity in the places that are changing the fastest. For example, coastal areas are inherently really dynamic because they occur at the interface between land and sea, but they are becoming increasingly dynamic as the global climate changes, sea levels rise, and extreme weather events become more frequent. Though many coastal species are well-adapted to dynamic environments, the speed of change combined with many decades of coastal development and land use change creates unprecedented challenges for many of these species.

My research is animated by the question of how to put the ideas I propose into practice. To address this question, I founded and run an educational freedom farm, where I implement, on land, the strategies I advocate in writing.

How would you like to see your research develop in the future?

As I look to the future, I am eager to build on the land-based elements of my research. In addition to expanding my own educational farm, I am also cultivating strategic partnerships with other earth sanctuaries in the North Carolina Piedmont where I expect to deepen my engagement with the questions of land, food production, and human-earth relationship that motivate my current research on sustenance.

It is also a priority for me to connect my research with my teaching. In that spirit, I have developed a sequence of APPLES courses, Freedom Farming (GEOG 293), Beyond Sustainability (GEOG 294), and Agroecology (GEOG 390), in which students not only engage Black and indigenous theories of land stewardship, but also enact those theories through service-learning projects on various local farms.

Paul TALLE **Assistant Professor**

At the broadest level, my research is aimed at conserving biodiversity in the places that are changing the fastest.



LAIRE STRACK is originally from Greensboro, NC. She graduated from UNC in 2021 with a BA degree in Geography and a BS degree in Environmental Science (and a Minor in Statistics and Analytics). She completed an undergraduate honors thesis titled, "Regional Geography of Vaccination Uptake and the Impacts of Policy Change in Pennsylvania" under the supervision of Dr. Paul Delamater. Claire is currently a Public Health Analyst at RTI International.

What did you enjoy the most about UNC Geography?

The variety of coursework options, which make it possible to explore a diverse array of topics within geography. I found this variety, combined with the supportive environment within the department, to be conducive to a learning experience that is very engaging.

How has your geography training prepared you for your current position?

My training in spatial data science taught me many of the R skills that I now use on a near-daily basis to prepare and analyze spatial data. My exposure to spatial data science began with the course GEOG 215: Introduction to Spatial Data Science, and evolved into undergraduate research where I applied the knowledge from the course under the supervision and guidance of Dr. Delamater. The technical background and problem-solving skills I gained from these experiences have played a crucial part in preparing me for my current role.

Do you have any suggestions for current UNC Geography students?

Talk to your professors/TAs! If there is someone in the department who works in an area you're interested in, I'd recommend talking to them about their work and interests, even if you're not in their class.

Evelyn L. Pruitt **FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS**



DRIENNE HALL is a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography. She is broadly interested in critical public health, Black geographies, and cartography. The Pruitt Fellowship will support her dissertation research, which explores the regionalization of health governance and the politics of health infrastructure development. At UNC, Adrienne works as a research associate at the North Carolina Institute of Public Health and is a member of the Mapping Black Towns project and the Carolina Cartography Collective. She served on the editorial teams for the Anti-Eviction Mapping Project's first book, Counterpoints: A San Francisco Bay Area Atlas of Displacement and Resistance, and the multimedia zine, (Dis)locations: Black Exodus. Adrienne holds a master's degree in public health from San Francisco State University and a bachelor's degree from the University of Southern California.

The **SOCIETY OF WOMAN GEOGRAPHERS** Evelyn L. Pruitt National Fellowship for Dissertation Research supports female PhD students conducting research in geography and geographical aspects of related fields. In 2022, **three of eight winners** of this prestigious fellowship were from UNC Geography.

Lily HERBERT

ILY HERBERT is graduating with her PhD in Geography in Spring 2023. She also holds a Master's degree in Geography and Global Studies from UNC. Her research is at the intersection of spatial data science, health geography, and critical geographic theory. Lily's dissertation focuses on the concept of hate crime through a critical approach to two types of data — police reports of hate crime, and hate crime prosecution across the United States. She problematizes missingness and other issues with data on hate crime as reported by police and court systems. Her work places the data into conversation with critical race scholars asserting that hate crime laws contribute to a system harming the most marginalized. She also draws on public health approaches to measuring structural racism, to explore if and how hate crime data may be connected to dynamics that cause premature death for racialized minorities — and how this connection varies across places in the U.S. Lily's project stems from a goal of producing policy-oriented research on topics important to marginalized communities. She hopes her project inspires and informs conversations about how to sustainably and equitably address racialized violence. After graduation, Lily will continue building a career in spatial data science research, completing projects critically designed to address structural inequities and improve the lives of marginalized people and youth.



MICHELLE PADLEY frequently visited the San Antonio Central Library, pictured here, during fieldwork. The library offered an important space where she could work on interview transcriptions, organize archival materials, and do other administration related to her research (Photo by Michelle Padley).

The technical background and problem-solving skills I gained from these experiences have played a crucial part in preparing me for my current role.



Click or scan here to read more about Claire's research on childhood vaccination in Pennsylvania

Adrienne HALL

ICHELLE EIRINI PADLEY is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Geography broadly interested in how urban development works and who benefits. As a Feminist Geographer she researches how city spaces are produced through legal practices and cultural politics that are related to local, national, and even geopolitical shifts. She teaches courses on the creation of and resistance to global inequality. In her dissertation, Michelle considers how post military landscapes impact city futures and are re-utilized as urban development projects. She does so through a study of Brooks, a former air force base turned mixed use site in San Antonio, TX. The research focuses on how Brooks is produced through legal practices as well as discourses about social difference and desires for the city's future. She is also part of a group exploring how ideas about vulnerability and deservingness in the US create unequal social hierarchies and influence public policy. Outside of this work Michelle enjoys spending time at the pool, walking around different cities, and hanging out with her chihuahua, Atlas. She is a fan of using exclamation marks in emails and thinking with others who are interested in urban space and solidarity practices. You can connect with her on Twitter @MelEiriniPadley.

Michelle

PADLEY

Eirini

n the summer of 2022, CHRISTIAN LENTZ and the Carolina Asia Center received a \$900,000 grant from the Henry Luce Foundation for the project BRINGING SOUTHEAST ASIA HOME. The grant supports Professor Lentz's research in Southeast Asia and will enhance UNC's ability to serve as the hub for Asian studies in the Southeast U.S. The project's interdisciplinary team also includes Becky Butler (Linguistics), Angel Hsu (Public Policy), and Noah Kittner (Gillings School of Global Public Health). In addition to supporting research activities, the grant will also provide targeted support for students with undergraduate summer research internships, graduate student dissertation completion awards, and a student working group.

BRINGING Southeast Asia HOME

View from Khmu village showing a shrine in the foreground, wet-rice fields in the middle distance, and a rubber plantation in the hilly background which, on the same land back in 2007, was used by Khmu villagers and farmers to grow dry rice on swidden fields (photo by Christian Lentz)

The idea for BSEAH came out of a recognition that UNC had the potential to play a leading role in Southeast Asian Studies not only in the state but in the US Southeast. We in the US South have a large, diverse, and growing population of Asian-Americans. But students coming to UNC or other system campuses had precious few resources to learn about their family origins and the connections that tie the regions, and all of us, together. Thus, we aim to open opportunities for all students and scholars to take part in study, exchange, and scholarship.

What does your role as Principal Investigator on the project entail? The largest role I played was to draft a grant proposal, something that involved a whole lot of writing! The proposal included a very detailed budget, and I relied on talented team members to crunch the numbers. Prior to submitting the grant, we had started building relationships across campus and overseas both to strengthen the academic infrastructure on campus, including a Vietnamese-language program and to connect with institutions in the region. Those efforts continue, and it's actually fun to be in a position now to support research, teaching, and other programs that build our profile in Southeast Asian studies.

My training in Southeast Asian studies at Cornell and Yale helped me identify areas where UNC was strong and how it might improve. Furthermore, my scholarship in Vietnam and Indonesia underlined the significance of language training, overseas relationships, and deep contextual understanding as essential elements in any area-studies program. Our grant includes funds to support advanced research by graduate students and faculty across campus: these resources helped me return to Southeast Asia this year to do primary research for the first time since 2019, i.e. before the COVID-19 pandemic.

I'm working on several projects now, all of which originate in my ethnographic and historical work in Dien Bien Phu, site of Vietnam's military victory over France in 1954. I wrote a book on that subject, and now I'm following up several leads, such as gender relations emerging from the formative encounter between ethnolinguistically diverse peoples and why the battle was so important to anti-colonial internationalists across the global south in the 1950s-60s. In Vietnam, I did archival research in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City on relations between Vietnam and Indonesia during the 1950s-60s.

My scholarship in Vietnam and Indonesia underlined the significance of language training, overseas relationships, and deep contextual understanding as essential elements in any area-studies program.

STUDENT NEWS

SARA GHEBREMICAEL won the Student DEI Award from the AAG Human Dimensions of Global Change specialty group.

MARY BIGGS received a Research and Writing Fellowship from the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

BRYTTANI WOOTEN received an NSF Graduate Fellowship in 2023.

JONATHAN MARCUS received the Student Undergraduate Teaching Award.

ANDREINA MALKI was named a Townsend Family Southern Futures Scholar.

ANNIE ELLEDGE's research on Durham's Diet Culture using Wilson Library's Special Collections was featured in UNC research publication Endeavors.

CAITILIN MCMILLAN received an American Dissertation Fellowship from the American Association of University Women.

JUN LIANG was promoted to Teaching Associate Professor. Dr. Liang is one of our core faculty in teaching and research in GIS, GI-Science, and spatial data science.

GABRIELA VALDIVIA was named the Class of 1989/William C. Friday Distinguished Professor.

When and where did the idea for this project originate?

How is your scholarship contributing to and benefiting from this project?

Please tell us about the research you are conducting as part of this project

Can you tell us more about how the teaching, research, and outreach aspects of the project work together?

Field research informs my teaching, and the relations that I build while doing research benefit student exchange. While at the National University of Singapore, I developed the partnership with UNC, helped restart the joint-degree program (on pause while NUS and UNC revise curricula), and identified new exchange opportunities, including field trips to neighboring countries. Spending time there also meant that I collected materials-photos, books, experiences – that will become part of a unit on the Singapore/Indonesia borderlands in GEOG 121 "Geographies of Globalization."

BETSY OLSON was awarded a Carolina Women's Leadership Council Faculty Mentoring Award, a Townsend Fellowship from the Townsend Program, and a (competitive) Senior Faculty Research and Scholarly Leave.

NINA MARTIN received a 2023 Summer Residency from the National Humanities Center. CHÉRIE RIVERS NDALIKO received the Tanner Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

FACULTY NEWS

ELIZABETH HAVICE was named the Bowman & Gordon Gray Term Professor.

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Learn more about the Carolina Asia Center



UNC GEOGRAPHERS in the field around the world in 2022-23



Michelle Eirini Padley San Antonio, TX | Summer, 2022

I conducted fieldwork for my dissertation project, "Military Pasts, City Futures: The Transition of Brooks, San Antonio from Military Base to Urban Hub." Through a study of Brooks - a former military base turned mixed-use development in San Antonio, Texas – I examine how post-military landscapes are reconfigured through gendered and racialized urban planning. During my fieldwork, I gathered information about different spatial strategies, policies, and marketing practices that have influenced development at Brooks.



Halle Evans Bangor, ME | June–July, 2022

I conducted a pilot study aimed to improve public health interventions and surveillance methods of Culex pipiens and Culex restuans, 2 West nile virus vector mosquito species. The fieldwork involved monitoring different attractants at multiple residential sites around Bangor, Maine, to analyze methodology effectiveness on residential properties. Container habitats with still-standing water are common mosquito breeding sites and the use of attractants are important methods for mosquito surveillance. At each site, four treatment attractants and a distilled water control were directly compared by analyzing egg raft count as a measure of treatment effectiveness.



Paul Taillie Cedar Key, FL | Spring, 2023

We use a camera trap specially designed for small mammals in tidal environment to monitor an endangered vole with an incredibly small range. The broader project is investigating the effectiveness of mimicking small-scale disturbance to better conserve saltmarsh biodiversity that is vulnerable to global change.



Kayla Emerson Albemarle Sound, NC | Fall, 2022

I completed field work for my Senior Honors Thesis under the advisement of Dr. Lindsay Dubbs (Coastal Studies Institute). My research compares the carbon and nutrient storage of the ground and surface waters in two different marsh systems in the Albemarle Sound. I aim to understand the effects of salinity and wind influence on these parameters.

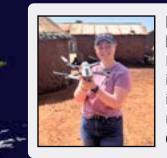




This project builds on Dr. Olson's decade-plus research collaboration with the Caregiving Youth Project (CYP), the only organization in the United States that supports people under the age of 18 who take on a range of roles to support a parent, guardian, relative, or sibling who is chronically ill, disabled or otherwise requiring care for medical reasons. Our research focuses on the everyday experiences of youth caregivers, how youth identities intersect with caregiving, and how caregiving shapes the spaces and places available to youth caregivers.



Kayla Emerson, Danielle Zarate, and Kriddie Whitmore Cayambe-Coca National Park, Ecuador | June–July, 2022 Our research focused on role of headwater streams and wetland connectivity on gas fluxes between water and the atmosphere, specifically considering carbon. Some of our work was more observational where we sampled water and installed monitoring systems. Other days we conducted more specific experiments.



Devon Maloney Pana, Togo | June, 2022

I conducted a month of field work in northern Togo collecting drone imagery of soil degradation and rehabilitation with Dr. Colin West (Department of Anthropology).





Sophia Graybill and Conghe Song

Pyuthan & Salvan Districts, Nepal | May-June, 2022 The purpose of the trip was to conduct preliminary fieldwork for Dr. Song's research project on the integrated socio-ecological dynamics of Community Forestry in Nepal. We met with district and community representatives to introduce ourselves, establish rapport, and pre-test a household survey that will be administered during a subsequent trip in 2023.



Banu Gökarıksel and Betül Aykac Istanbul, Turkey | Various times in 2022–23

This project analyzes the embodied geopolitics of refugee discourse, practice, and policy. One of the project sites is Turkey where there are more than 4 million asylum-seekers mostly from Syria. Irag. and Afghanistan. Our study interviews and discourse analysis (political eaders' speeches, news articles, and opinion pieces published in mainstream media outlets and social me dia) to understand how refugees are treated as gendered nd racialized Others.



Christian Lentz

Dien Bien Phu. Vietnam | February-April, 2023

I spent the spring semester on fellowship at National University of Singapore's Asia Research Institute (ARI) where I worked on building the UNC-NUS partnership, strengthened UNC's Southeast Asian Studies curriculum, presented research in progress, and traveled to neighboring countries for fieldwork. In Vietnam, I did archival research in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City on relations between Vietnam and Indonesia during the 1950s-60s and visited my fieldsite in Dien Bien Phu where I saw old friends, such as Mr. Mung (pictured).

Kate Brandt, Mike Emch, Varun Goel, and Cyrus Sinai Lilongwe, Malawi | June-July, 2022

We launched a study on the impacts of solar technologies on household energy access. The study is part of the Energy Poverty PIRE in Southern Africa project, lead by Dr. Pam Jagger. We designed and implemented our survey in collaboration with Dr. Charles Jumbe and Dr. Thabbie Chilongo from the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources. We will return to the field next summer for follow up data collection.

Scott FACULTY KIRSCH BOOKSHELF

My training as a geographer helped me to understand these spaces, or at least to raise new questions about them, in their relation to social, political, economic, and cultural processes.

> he "Zig-Zag" section of the Kennon Road, Benguet Province, Philippines, was built under U.S. colonial rule to reach the new summer capital in Baguio (Photo by Scott Kirsch)

MERICAN COLONIAL SPACES IN THE PHILIPPINES tells the story of U.S. colonialists who attempted, in the first decades of the twentieth century, to build an enduring American empire in the Philippines through the production of space. From concrete interventions in infrastructure, urban planning, and built environments to more abstract projects of mapping and territorialization, the book traces the efforts of U.S. Insular Government agents to make space for empire in the Philippines through forms of territory, map, landscape, and road, and how these spaces were understood as solutions to problems of colonial rule.



IN THE PHILIPPINES **INSULAR EMPIRE** Scott Kinch

R

How, when, and where did you conduct the research for the project?

Much of the research was conducted in dusty archives, where traces of the U.S. colonial project have been preserved—mostly in North America at government archives and university special collections in places like Ann Arbor, Chicago, and Cambridge, Massachusetts. I also traveled to the Philippines-both to visit more archives and to see some of the settings firsthand, even though the early twentieth century "American colonial spaces" I was studying no longer exist except in traces from the archive and in the landscape. In addition to these site visits, I was also able to meet with faculty and students in the Geography Department at the University of the Philippines (in 2008 and 2015) and to experience some of everyday life there today, which added different perspectives to my project.

How does your training as a geographer offer a novel perspective on this story?

Different kinds of space – from the legal construction of sovereign territories to governmental maps and plans, and from aesthetic landscapes like the American summer capital in Baguio to the new roadways that were necessary to get there – are at the core of the stories I tell in this book. My training as a geographer helped me to understand these spaces, or at least to raise new questions about them, in their relation to social, political, economic, and cultural processes.

ARBARA TAYLOR began working at the Department of Geography on August 5th, 1994. She became Department Manager in 1996; her duties include the management of fiscal affairs, review of all departmental personnel actions, supervision of non-teaching staff, assisting with all grant proposals, compilation of the College annual report and other annual reports, coordination of accreditation reviews, and administration of assigned classrooms and facilities. Barbara and her husband Jim are the proud owners of two dogs and two cats. In her personal time, she enjoys reading and traveling.

What were you doing prior to working for the UNC Geography Department?

I was going to Durham Tech to become a paralegal, and working for the School of Medicine as a temp. I had been trying for years to become a permanent staff member on campus - my parents both drilled the importance of a retirement plan and benefits into my head! And, I was fortunate enough to land that position here, and I have been here ever since!

How has the department changed over the years?

We have gotten much larger! The faculty has doubled in size since I started working here. The content of our courses has changed, both because of technology and because we have hired such an incredibly diverse faculty.

Our department has continued to grow and change, but the connection with the people who I have had the pleasure of working with over the years is what I will always remember the most.

What is something particularly memorable from early in your time at UNC Geography? When I first arrived here, one of my duties was to make copies of syllabi, tests, and exams on a mimeograph machine! The purple text....the smell! Soon after I became the Department Manager in 1996, I asked Dr. Florin if we could please switch over to a copier for such tasks, and he agreed the mimeograph could go. I happily sent it off to surplus!



Photo of BARBARA TAYLOR taken during h first week of employment at UNC Geograph in August of 1994 in the department office

Barbara STAFF MEMBER PROFILE BROFILE



What you enjoy most about UNC Geography?

Since the day I arrived here, I have felt at home here. My first Department Chair, Dr. Florin, was an amazing mentor. He really gave me the confidence I needed to learn and grow here. Our department has continued to grow and change, but the connection with the people who I have had the pleasure of working with over the years is what I will always remember the most. Oh my gosh, Nell (Phillips) and I have worked together for 30 years and Dan (Warfield) has been here for almost 17 years! I am so honored to have worked with them!



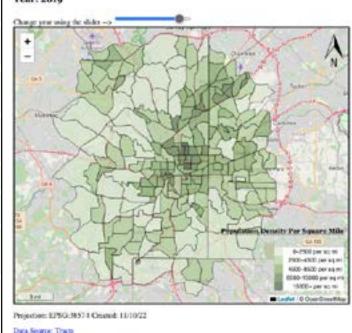
GIS DAY Map Competition

HE GIS DAY MAP COMPETITION is an annual event sponsored by the UNC Geography Department and the Davis Library Research Hub. The event was held on Wednesday, November 16, 2022. There were 42 entries in the competition! Winners were chosen by a panel of expert judges and popular vote at the in-person event (35 people voted at this year's event).

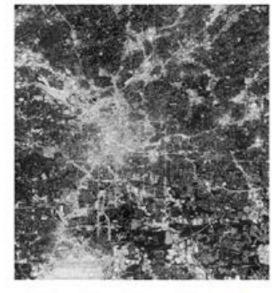
Displaying Urbanization and Sprawl in Atlanta Metro Area Census Tracts

Sarah Followill

Annual Population Density by Census Tract - Vector Data Year: 2019



Satellite Imagery of Atlanta Physical Urban Growth - Raster Data Click the buttors below to see images of Atlanta urbanization in various years



1ST PLACE Sarah Followill





Click here to visit Sarah's online map

12/12 - 12/12

ARAH FOLLOWILL, winner of the G. Herbert Stout Award for Inno vative Student Projects in GIS, presents her website at the North Carolina GIS Conference on March 10, 2023 in Winston-Salem, NC



Sarah FOLLOWILL

Where did the idea for your GIS Day map come from?

I am from Atlanta, Georgia, so I wanted to use that city as my study area, and I knew from living there that Atlanta is extremely spread out and greatly affected by urban sprawl. From most residential areas, you have to get into a car to go just about anywhere. Therefore, I wanted to study urban sprawl in Atlanta, especially in the past 10 years as the city has grown so much in that span. Additionally, I wanted to code a website that had interactive elements to involve the user in studying my topic.

My first GIS-related class in the GEOG department was Dr. Delamater's GEOG 215 class, and I really owe that class and Dr. D for sparking my love of mapping and learning to code. Dr. Javier Arce-Nazario's GEOG 456 class was also quite impactful to me, as that is the class where I learned the skills to build the website that I submitted to the GIS Map Day competition. Dr. Arce-Nazario was so patient while helping me with my code and I truly appreciated that.

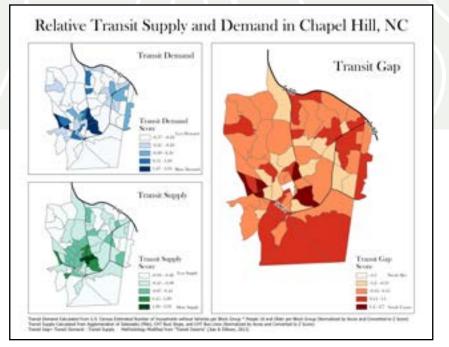
What was the best part about presenting your work at the NC GIS Conference? I enjoyed presenting my own project, but I really enjoyed getting to listen to other student projects including UNC graduate student Grey Shipman's project on Chapel Hill transit equity, which was the second-place winner for UNC Map Day.



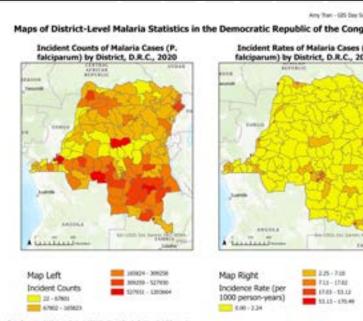
love to hear from you! Just scan or click to share your own news.



Data Solarie: Population Density Data Data Source: Google Barth Englise



3RD PLACE Amy Tran



My first GIS-related class in the GEOG department was Dr. Delamater's GEOG 215 class, and I really owe that class and Dr. D for sparking my love of mapping and learning to code.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PROFILE

2 2 2 4 2 2 2

MAJOR Environmental Studies MINORS GIS and Studio Art

ARAH FOLLOWILL will be graduating in May, 2023. She has a passion for sustainable design, both in the architecture and urban planning sectors. Sarah is also a Captain on UNC's Division I Fencing Team and enjoys creating art, especially ceramics.

Do any courses you taken in UNC Geography stand out?



FACULTY NEWS

PAUL TAILLE received a grant from the UNC Center for Galapagos Studies to support collaborations in the Galapagos and presented at the Remote Sensing Interdisciplinary Graduate Education Seminar Series at Virginia Tech.

DANIELLE PURIFOY and SARA SMITH's project, the Land Back/ Abolition Project, received funding from the Alliance group and the Institute of Arts and Humanities and was featured in a Daily Tar Heel article. Continued on Page 18

IANDA DELVECCHIA (front), Nick Marzolf (left), and Tayton Alvis ght), use a manual well driver to install shallow groundwater mon toring wells in the riparian zone of New Hope Creek in Duke Forest

What drew you to UNC Geography?

UNC Geography is so interdisciplinary that it is impossible to join this department and not consider alternate approaches to our freshwater ecology research, particularly in terms of considering the ways that people interact with freshwater. The department attitude is one of mutual support, empathy, learning, teaching, and respect, and that working environment is incredibly productive for learning and considering new approaches as well developing a safe and inclusive lab. In these ways, UNC Geography provides a home for productive research as well as both the inspiration and tools to expand our research program.

Amanda **DELVECCHIA**

NEW FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Click or scan here to

How would you like to see your research develop in the future?

I envision our lab as one that develops in 2 major ways. Firstly, there are many gaps in our understanding of the factors which affect greenhouse gas flux from freshwater, and many components of gas flux and transformation that are still poorly understood. As we continue to push the threshold of that understanding, I envision communicating results, and proposing studies which further elaborate how our management decisions (e.g. dam water releases, channel creation, landcover change) affect freshwater greenhouse gas flux. Secondly, we are just beginning to appreciate the importance and breadth of anoxic (no oxygen) conditions in freshwaters – we will continue to understand how these anoxic conditions can affect how energy is cycled through freshwater food webs.

FACULTY NEWS

SARA SMITH gave the plenary lecture for the Black Geographies Specialty Group at the annual AAG meeting.

JAVIER ARCE-NAZARIO was featured in Carolina Arts and Sciences Magazine in a story titled "Creative Cartography."

We send our warmest congratulations to all graduating seniors in our major and minor programs, as well as to all graduate students who have successfully passed their comprehensive exams and defended their proposals, theses, or dissertations!



This newsletter was produced by the UNC Geography & Environment Information Committee, which includes faculty members Paul Delamater (chair), Banu Gökarıksel, and Jun Liang and graduate student Hilary Sandborn

visit Amanda's website

PAUL DELAMATER was part of a multidisciplinary team that received 2.4M dollar grant to study access to naloxone (treatment for opioid overdose) in North Carolina.

CHÉRIE RIVERS NDALIKO published a book titled "To Be Nsala's Daughter."

CONGHE SONG published a co-authored book titled "Conservation Effectiveness and Concurrent Green Initiatives."

CLARK GRAY and collaborators received a research award for best paper in 2022 using the IPUMS-International data.

department of Click or scan here **GEOGRAPHY** & **ENVIRONMENT**

Please consider MAKING A GIFT to support our excellent undergraduate and graduate students as they become leaders on and off campus. Even a small gift can make a big difference.

department of GEOGRAPHY & ENVRONNENT

SPRING 2023

Geography PhD student Kriddie Whitmore and undergraduate students Daniela Zarate and Amy Madrigal take CO_2 and CH_4 gas flux readings in a wetland area located in Cayambe Coca National Park, Ecuador during fieldwork conducted in summer 2022 (photo by Kayla Emerson).