



# THE GRATICULE

Macalester Geography Department Newsletter



## Projections from the Chair

From the Desk of Professor Dan Trudeau

One afternoon in March, I was in the Geography Department office and it was abuzz with activity. There were probably ten students and a couple of faculty socializing there. People were engaging in chit-chat, enjoying food and each other's company, and punctuating the moment with laughter and good cheer. For me, it was a snapshot of the vibrant community we have in Geography here at Macalester.



Dan Trudeau  
Geography Professor & Chair

What makes it vibrant? There are many points to consider. And in the spirit of hitting some highlights of the year and expressing gratitude, allow me to explain myself.

We have a vibrant community because our courses and curriculum attract people who like to engage in hands-on activities in the company of others. Our computer labs, class-based field trips, and embrace of discussion-based inquiry help us learn about the world around us, each other, and ourselves.

Our community is vibrant because we have thoughtful faculty and staff who care about each other, our students and our alumni. We strive to be a place of welcome, support, and inclusion. And while we are far from perfect, we are committed to growing and adapting and trying to get it right. *Continued on next page.*

## Save the Date

### MACALESTER REUNION 2023

Several Geography professors will be holding office hours during Reunion, from 10:00 am to noon on Friday, June, 9th (Carnegie Hall - First Floor). Stop on by, visit for a while and snap a photo in front of our beautiful new wall map in CARN 108!



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# Projections From the Chair

Our sense of community is also activated by the extra-curricular activities we participate in. Most notably, contributions to the Lanegran Endowed Fund provide vital support for annual events like [Lanegran Days](#) that energize the intellectual and social life of the Macalester Geography Community.

Our community connections have been enriched by our Gamma Theta Upsilon Co-Presidents, Maura Haas '23 and Noah Velick '23. Maura and Noah have led an active year of social engagements, which was marked by a series of events during Geography Awareness Week and reached a climax with the return of the annual Geography Progressive. Thanks for all that they've done to help us build community and deepen our engagement with Geography.

Our community connections are energized even when we're not in Carnegie through this newsletter and our social media platforms. Thanks to Cecelia Kaufmann '24, Brennan Standel '23, and our department coordinator, Laura Kigin, for all they do to support these connections.

As you may have read, Macalester Geography is now a STEM department! And while this reflects a change in the boundaries set around STEM more than anything, it means that our major has more to offer international students and we hope to welcome more international students into our community.

Our community is vibrant because of the dedication and creativity of our staff and faculty. This has shown up in many ways over the past year; there are too many to list comprehensively. But it's worth mentioning that collectively, we've been active in attending conferences, publishing peer-reviewed research, in some cases with students and alumni, contributing to professional societies and governing boards, keeping our knowledge up to date, developing community partnerships that contribute to our courses, and continuing to incorporate our scholarly inquiries into courses, which keeps them fresh and on the cutting-edge of education.

Speaking of faculty, I want to recognize our Visiting Assistant Professors, Jesse McClelland, Kelsey McDonald, and Rupak Shrestha. Each of them is a wonderful colleague who has deepened and advanced the department's mission and energized its sense of community through their hard work and creativity, both in and out of the classroom.

Finally, our community is vibrant because of all of our students, both current and alums. You bring vital energy, curiosity, and tenacity to the spaces that comprise Geography: the classroom, the department office suite, the GIS and Geospatial labs, and the field. And our alumni continue to give back through visits to classes and participation in networking and advising activities, such as the Geography Career Pathways panel, which is discussed later in this issue.

It's a pleasure and honor to be in a community with all of you! I am grateful to all for your efforts to sustain it.



## The World is a Brighter Place!

Salóme Ýrr Bergeron entered this world at 2:05 pm on March 27th, right on her due date, weighing 7 lbs. 12 oz. and measuring 20 3/4". Big brother Halldór and her parents, Ashley Nepp '08 and Matthew Bergeron '08, are delighted with their newest addition.



Farm field excursion with Professor Bill Moseley and the GEOG 232 People, Agriculture and Environment class.



Lots of familiar faces at the 2023 AAG Conference in Denver, Colorado.



Professor Holly Barcus and the GEOG 375 Rural Landscapes and Livelihoods class in Wisconsin.



Events organized by the Food, Agriculture, and Society concentration were attended and supported by geography students in geography's spirit of multidisciplinary collaboration. The two photos above (left and middle) from a tour of R and R Cultivation, a Twin Cities mushroom grower. The picture featured on the right shows those in attendance at the Marbleseed Conference, a Midwest annual organic farming conference.

## MUGS 2023

Saturday, April 29

As this newsletter goes to press, 32 Macalester students and faculty plan to attend the 2023 Midwest Geography Undergraduate Symposium (MUGS) hosted by the University of St. Thomas, (St. Paul, MN) at the end of April. Started back in 2005 by Macalester geography students, the annual symposium continues today, rotating between several participating Midwest colleges and universities. It is an ideal opportunity for students to showcase their writing, research, and presentation skills.

## GTU Helps Build Community

by Maura Haas '23 and Noah Velick '23



Noah Velick '23 and Maura Haas '23  
Co-GTU Presidents

As GTU presidents, one of our main goals was to help build community in the department, especially in the post-pandemic world. This year, we started a program called “Geography Community Connections”, where we paired experienced majors of the department with newer or prospective majors. We hosted events throughout the year inviting people to mingle with each other through rounds of “speed dating” and to converse with their pairings about the Geography major, Macalester, and life in general. We then encouraged the pairings to meet on their own, building connections outside of Carnegie Hall. We are so grateful to everyone who participated in Community Connections and helped make it a success. You are the most important part of this community, and we are so glad we could build it with you! We also want to thank Laura Kigin, who helped coordinate logistics and food for the events, and Dan Trudeau, who planted this seed back in August.

# Geography Career Pathways Highlights

by Cecelia Kaufmann '24

On Thursday, March 23rd, the Macalester Geography Department welcomed five former Macalester geographers back to campus (in a hybrid setting) to talk about their experiences and where they have landed now! In a packed room, students, staff, faculty, and alumni talked, joked, and recounted their experiences. One attendee, Christian Gustin '24 stated, “The panel showed the breadth of possibilities for careers in geography, ranging from local government, education, to the private sector. The panelists reassured us that a career path in geography does not have to be linear and can involve planning, chance, serendipity, risk and confidence in the skills that I have acquired during my time at Macalester. . . I left the panel with a sense of optimism, that Geography as a discipline can be a major and a skill set that opens up a variety of pathways and opportunities that I can mold together with my own passions to find a career that not only interests me but can also give me a sense of belonging.”

There are so many directions a person with a geography background can go – from conservation to healthcare, to education, to policy, to working for a prominent GIS software developing company – yes, the possibilities are endless!

Are YOU interested in participating in a future Career Pathways Panel?

We'd love to hear from you. Just drop an email to Dan Trudeau at [trudeau@macalester.edu](mailto:trudeau@macalester.edu)



## A BIG thank you to all of our panelists!

**Agata Miszczyk '13**, Sr. Solutions Engineer in Logistics at Esri

**Anouska Millear '15**, Reproductive Health Equity Team Lead at Colorado Dept. of Health Care Policy & Financing

**Ari Ofsevit '06**, Senior Program Associate at Institute for Transportation and Development Policy in Massachusetts

**Brianna Besch '13**, Environmental Policy Specialist at Environmental Protection Agency

**Nick Jacobson '22**, Land Protection Specialist, Colorado West Land Trust\*

**Leah Hood '05**, works as a Secondary Social Studies Teacher in the Twin Cities Metro Area.

*\*Nick had a last-minute scheduling conflict, but we hope he can join us at a future event.*

## GTU is Recognized by Macalester



Recently, GTU (and specifically the following students, Maura Haas '23 (not pictured), Noah Velick '23, Brennan Standel '23, and Cecelia Kaufmann '24), were recognized at the college's Community Recognition Awards Ceremony; they received the Ann Bolger Vision Award. The award is named in honor of Ann Bolger, who was Director of Residential Life at Macalester from 1993 to 1999. The award recognizes efforts to bring about positive organizational change and inspire creative endeavors that contributed to the educational experience of students in a thoughtful, collaborative and informed fashion.

# Geography Spring Dinner: A Time Honored Tradition

While the Minnesota weather may be a little confused about what season it is, the Macalester Geography Department knew it was time to gather for their annual Spring dinner. The event is a chance to come together, reflect on the year, and mark the accomplishments of the department. There was plenty of delicious food from the Holy Land Deli, laughter and *singing*, awards and recognitions, and celebrations to go around.



The evening began with the awarding of the Crystal Globe. It was given to Paul Shadewald for his above-and-beyond facilitation of community engagement with the Geography Department. See Paul's award citation here. Next, a ceremony and pledge helped initiate GTU's newest members who figuratively "jumped into geography" by literally jumping over our world atlas! Dan Trudeau, department chair and master of ceremonies, then called for a round of applause and expressed sincere gratitude to our visiting professors for their hard work. Everyone in the room celebrated the students who received departmental awards!

Students also took the opportunity to celebrate the professors and staff with some of their own, slightly more jovial awards. And finally, the night concluded with a sing-along of "Here Comes The Sun" to usher out our graduating seniors and remind them and everyone else in the department that even on a confused, snowy, cloudy Minnesota spring day, *the sun will come!*

## MACALESTER GEOGRAPHY OF EXCELLENCE IN SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Julia Chamberland

## DAVID A. LANGERAN AWARD

Rebecca Driker-Ohren, Maura Haas, Brennan Standel, and Noah Velick

## HILDEGARD BINDER JOHNSON AWARD

Corgan Archuleta, Katherine Frye, Nicholai Jost-Epp, and Claire Knopf

## More Honors and Awards Received by Graduating Seniors

Jacob Orser

2nd Place at MN GIS/LIS Undergraduate Competition for his project: "*Change Detection Analysis to Assess the Environmental Impact of the Line 3 Oil Pipeline*"

Brennan Standel

*Presidential Leadership Award for Outstanding Seniors*

Milosz Fernandez-Kepka

*Academic All-MIAC (Soccer); Hansen Research Scholarship Recipient (2022)*

Carter Rutherford '22 and Noah Velick  
*Phi Beta Kappa*

## GTU Graduates

Julia Chamberland  
Milosz Fernandez-Kepka  
Maura Haas\*  
Jacob Orser  
Brennan Standel  
Noah Velick\*  
Joahn Wexler

\*Co-Presidents



# Congratulations



2023 GEOGRAPHY GRADUATES

CHARLIE HARPER BONHAM  
SAM WILLIAM HUTTON BRAININ  
SETH HARRIS BUIKEMA  
JULIA ANN CHAMBERLAND  
REBECCA FRANCES DRIKER-OHREN  
MILOSZ JUAN PABLO FERNANDEZ-KEPKA  
PIPPA ANNE GALLAGHER  
MAURA QUINN HAAS  
MAX KHUNDADZE  
CHARLIE THANH LAM-LU  
LILY D LORENZEN  
JACOB ALMON ORSER  
BRENNAN PASCAL STANDEL  
CARMEN JANE QUINTOS  
WILL CHRISTIAN ROBERTSON  
CARTER RUTHERFORD  
SILAS SCOBIE SOUTHWORTH  
NOAH VELICK  
JONAH STEWART WEXLER  
GEORGE RICHARD WOJCICKI

## Xavier Haro-Carrión



The *Graticule* is excited to introduce Professor Xavier Haro-Carrión to the broader Mac geography community. After joining the department as a postdoc and then an assistant professor nearly two years ago, Xavier is a familiar face in the Geography Department lounge and classroom for many students. He has taught several new courses like GEOG 204: Earth and the Environment: Elements of Physical Geography, GEOG 239: Neotropical Landscapes, GEOG 362: Remote Sensing of the Environment ([see student work](#)), GEOG 373: Advanced Remote Sensing, and he launched his senior seminar, GEOG 494: Our Changing Planet: A Seminar in Land Change Science this semester. Xavier earned his PhD in Interdisciplinary Ecology with a major in Geography, his MSc in Biology with a concentration in Tropical Conservation and Development at the University of Florida, and his BS in Biology at Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, Quito.

Xavier is from Quito, Ecuador, where he grew up and lived until he earned a Fulbright to study in Florida. Geography first piqued his interest during his undergraduate studies when he was doing a project on the conservation of epiphytes in the Amazon. The project needed more than just his biological knowledge to understand the multiscale impacts of landscapes experienced by human interactions. This initial spark has led to a rich and diverse career focusing on patterns and processes of land and vegetation change at different geographic and temporal scales. His work has been supported by his use of remote sensing tools and analysis and emphasis on bringing in a human-environment context to these tools. This balance between STEM and Humanities approaches is part of what he loves about the traditions of Geography. He celebrates Macalester's recent recognition of the department's STEM status as a positive breakdown of the often divisional barriers between the two approaches.

After many years of research, the experience of teaching at a smaller institution like Maclester has been richly rewarding for Professor Haro-Carrión. At times it can take a while for the impacts of research to be felt. Teaching at Mac provides an immediate and concrete impact through the lives of students who go out into the world and make a difference equipped with what they have learned during their time here. Xavier says this has balanced well with several research projects, particularly when he has been able to collaborate with students. If you are a student and interested in working with Professor Haro-Carrión, he is always looking for students to join him in Ecuador or to work in other areas of the globe using land change science approaches. More information [here](#).

For fun, Xavier likes to swim and enjoys exploring the Twin Cities by trying new restaurants with not-too-spicy food. He is excited to start on a new adventure in gardening this spring.





## Rupak Shrestha

"I always felt really engaged and challenged in Borders and Belonging. It was a really comfortable class atmosphere and I really appreciated all the insights he brought into our class working with us in a way that valued everyone's contributions while pushing us to move deeper into the material. I'll miss waving to him around campus and all his awesome film selections."

"It feels so great to take a class with a professor who clearly is passionate about what they teach? It feels so lucky to be able to learn from someone who is so knowledgeable and passionate about a subject! Thank you for everything!!! This class has felt like a very meaningful learning experience and I will carry what we have learned with me for a very long time."

## Jesse McClelland

"Jesse has been incredibly understanding and patient with me throughout the semester and I really feel like he took the time to understand me and my challenges. He helps me to get on track and keeps me motivated to do the best I can do in class. He has made a big impact on me this semester that will not go underappreciated. "

"I started world urbanization thinking I already had a pretty strong background in urban geography, but this class challenged my thinking in so many useful ways. Jesse brought in a really well-chosen curriculum and made us consider a lot of dimensions. Additionally, we had one of the best field trips I have ever been on, exposing us to a fascinating side of Saint Paul's history. The class felt intellectually challenging and rigorous, even while Jesse remained incredibly accommodating and helpful throughout the semester."

## Kelsey McDonald

"Kelsey has brought a huge knowledge base and wonderfully open and fun energy to our classes. She's helped me to look at GIS concepts from a new perspective and is always open and approachable with all her students. It's been wonderful to work with her and I've truly learned so much. "

## Brennan Stadel '23

*Graticule Correspondent*



This will be my last *Graticule* as I am graduating this May. I wanted to take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude for this position and the people I have had the privilege to interact with through this position. Watching and helping this project grow has been a highlight of my time at Mac. It has brought me closer to a department I have loved and helped me not only feel like a part of a community, but also part of building one. Thank you to all those who help make this possible. In particular, those whom I interviewed, folks in the department such as Laura Kigin and Dan Trudeau who were invaluable contributors, editors and supporters and all of my peers, but especially Cecelia Kaufmann '24, Noah Velick '23 and Maura Haas '23, for their creative collaboration. I will miss the warm atmosphere, the wonderful people, the maps and the free coffee at 44.938951, -93.169306.

I am excited about life's next steps and will be pursuing a Masters in Geography at Michigan State University this fall. I don't know if they have a newsletter but I look forward to reading future editions of the *Graticule* and the continuing adventures of Macalester Geography students and faculty.

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"Health GIS has been a really cool course to get to sharpen my mapping skills and spatial problem-solving. Kelsey applies a very strong critical but encouraging eye to our work and always encourages us to be the best geographers that we can be. Kelsey's teaching has elevated my map design and research skills, and I feel way more prepared for jobs in the public health and GIS fields. "

## Laura Kigin

### Geography Department Coordinator

At this spring's Faculty & Staff Appreciation Luncheon, Laura Kigin was recognized (along with all of the other milestone work anniversaries) for her 30 years of service to Macalester. Laura began in the Geography Department back in the Fall of 1993.

Where has the time gone? Laura has gone on a dozen or more US & Canada field excursions, attend many AAG conferences supporting student presenters and organizing mini-reunions for conference goers and local alumni in the AAG's host cities. She has planned retirement celebrations for Professors Pitzl, Gersmehl, and Lanegran, and mentored and supervised dozens of work-study students over the years. Laura was here when Joanna Kepka graduated from Macalester in 1995 with a Geography degree and is delighted that over the last four years she has been around to get to know Joanna's son, Milosz Fernandez-Kepka '23, who will graduate this spring with a Geography major, Urban Studies concentration and Psychology minor from Macalester!

## Recent Publications

Sustaining Rural Systems

Rural Vitality in an Era of Globalization and Economic Nationalism

Edited By **Holly Barcus & William G. Moseley**

Discovering Geography through Doing Geography: Project-Based Learning in an Introductory

Undergraduate World Geography Course

By Tiffany Grobelski, Anna Versluis & **Jesse McClelland**

"A Bridge Between Two Worlds: Why Advanced Placement Human Geography is Good for the Discipline of Geography." *The Professional Geographer*.

By **Moseley, W.G.**, M. Lu and G. Hill (in press)

Rethinking Translation: Emergent, Geographic, and Transformative

*ACME: An International Journal for Critical Geographies*, 22(1), 842-859.

By Houston, S., & **Trudeau, D.** (2023).

# THE GRATICULE

Macalester Geography Department Newsletter

### Writers & Editors

Brennan Standel '23

Cecelia Kaufmann '24

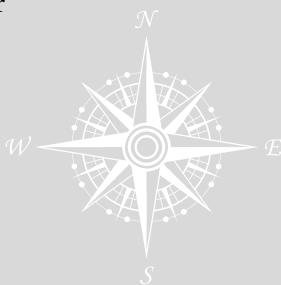
Laura Kigin

Dan Trudeau

### Contributors

Maura Haas '23

Noah Velick '23



## Support Geography

When giving to Macalester, consider making a gift to the Geography Department. To direct your gift to our program, please select "other" in the "designate gift to" option and write "Geography" in the comments. Your gift will support high-impact activities, including field trips and professional development opportunities for students that are a signature part of the Macalester Geography experience.

44.938951, -93.169306

[macalester.edu/geography](http://macalester.edu/geography)

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