



Recognizing the Class of 2024

Dan Trudeau, Geography Department Chair

Back in August 2020, students in the class of 2024 started college at a historically significant moment. We were gripped by the COVID-19 pandemic. Vaccines hadn't yet been developed. The Twin Cities were still reckoning with the murder of George Floyd. It was a charged and uncertain time. At that moment, many conducted their college search in the blind as campuses were closed to visitors. Going to college and ultimately choosing Macalester was a leap of faith.



Dan met his doppelganger while attending the AAG meeting in Hawai'i

Students in the class of 2024 didn't know it at the time, but they were also contending with another leap of faith. Macalester shifted its entire curriculum to the "module system" format.

For those who don't know it, in the module system, students took two classes at a time for 7.5 weeks. Class meetings were scheduled for every weekday. Many classes were online and some featured a mix of people online and in-person.

Students in the class of 2024 experienced their first-year course in the module system. This truly was a baptism by fire. Imagine trying to get up to speed with college-level writing, learn how to use the library system, and build community during the paradigm of social distancing while taking a semester-length course that was crammed into 7.5 weeks. It asked a lot of everyone.

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I taught Urban Geography as a first-year course in the module system and am honored to say that many people in that course continued with Geography in some capacity.

I think the people who took the course bonded and found ways to have fun along the way despite the challenges. The circumstances also led us to hold classes outside frequently and figure out how to use hand signals to make our online discussions more interactive. Students also participated in a YouTube mediated version of the urban geography field study. I think that still holds up- and you can check it out if you're curious.

Still, it was a trying time and an exhausting experience. For instance, it led to the emergency declaration of wellness days! I'm grateful and a bit relieved that students stuck with Geography.

To all of the students of the class of 2024, I continue to be inspired by your perseverance and persistence. The start of your college career was a trying moment. And I believe it continues to serve as a character-building experience. As you reflect on your time at Mac, I encourage you to acknowledge your collective bravery, dedication, and resilience and draw on these as you prepare for the next leg of your journey.

Congratulations to the class of 2024!

MUGS and Mac

MUGS and Mac

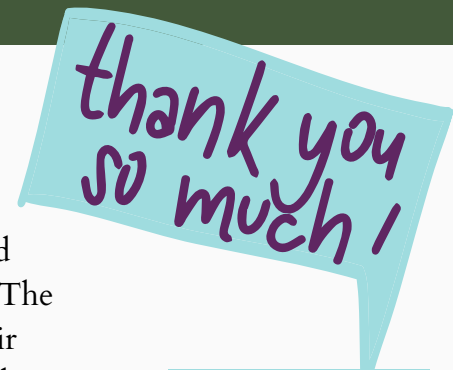
Freeman Boda '26



Since its founding at Macalester College in 2005, the Midwest Undergraduate Geography Symposium (MUGS) has been hosted annually by a rotation of Geography programs in the Midwest. The symposium offers undergraduates the opportunity to present their research in a formal setting with other geographers from the Midwest.

The 19th annual MUGS will be hosted at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls on Saturday, April 27th, and geographers from both Macalester and across the wider Midwest will be in attendance. Twenty-nine Macalester students and faculty will attend and present. Their topics range from “Public Libraries: Anchors of Care and Community in the Twin Cities” to “The Elwha River Dam Removal: Impact on Water Quality and Vegetation”.

This year’s keynote speaker, Ian Muehlenhaus, is a former visiting faculty member in our department, and currently a Senior Product Engineer at ESRI and the Chair of the Commission on Map of the International Cartographic Association (ICA). The title of his talk is, “Map to the Future: Spatial Science, Cartography, and AI”.



**To all who
contributed
to Geography
during
the recent
Give to
Macalester
Days -
we appreciate
YOU!**

CELEBRATING OUR GEOGRAPHY GRADUATES

2024



CORGAN ARCHULETA
 Geography Major and
 Urban Studies Concentration



AARYAN AWASTHI
 Geography and Spanish Majors,
 Urban Studies Concentration



MARIA BLAESING
 Geography Major
 and Economics Minor



KELLEN CHENOWETH
 Geography Major
 and Classics minor



KELLY ETA
 Geography Major, Urban Studies
 Concentration, Philosophy
 and English Minors



KATHERINE FRYE
 Geography Major, Urban Studies
 Concentration



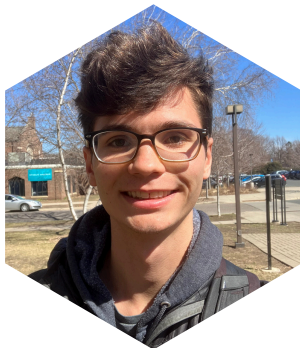
DREW GETTY
 Geography Major



CHRISTIAN GUSTIN
 Geography and International
 Studies Majors, Political Science
 Minor, International Development
 Concentration



JOE HARRINGTON
 Geography Major



NICHOLOAI JOST-EPP
 Geography Major



CECELIA KAUFMANN
 Geography and Computer Science
 Majors, Political Science Minor



CLAIRE KNOPF
 Geography Major



ALDRIC MARTINEZ-OLSON
 Geography and Sociology Majors,
 Urban Studies Concentration



UY NGUYEN
 Geography Major



Congratulations!

CELEBRATING OUR GEOGRAPHY GRADUATES



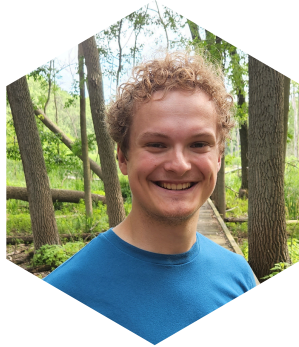
WILLIAM NICHOLSON

Geography and Educational Studies Majors and Statistics Minor



AMELIA PAINE

Geography and Environmental Studies Majors and Urban Studies Concentration



BRIAN PRYZBY

Geography and Data Science Majors



JANE SLENTZ-KESLER

Geography and Environmental Studies Majors, French Minor, African Studies Concentration



ELLA THOMSEN

Geography and Economics Majors



OLI PALMERA TIERNEY

Geography and American Studies Majors



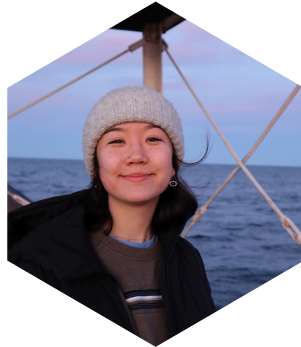
JUSTIN VEIMAU

Geography Major



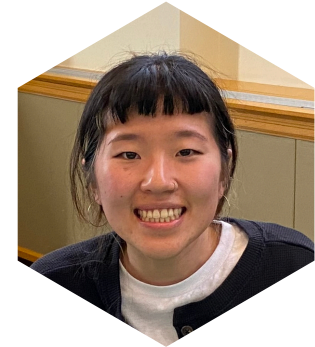
HENRY YACKEL

Geography Major
Anthropology Minor, Food Agriculture and Society Minor



MARIKO YATSUHASHI

Geography and Environmental Studies Majors, Community and Global Health Concentration



SOHYEON YUN

Geography Major and Asian Studies Minor

Favorite Memories

My field study of South Minneapolis for Catherine Chang's World Urbanization class, I got to see beautiful scenery and discovered the wonderful research method of wandering around.

The most memorable and recent thing I can think of would be the Urban Studies colloquial event, in which we invited the wider Macalester community to engage with a cognitive mapping exercise of the Twin Cities.

The Urban Geography field studies! Those trips taught me one of the most precious skills I've learned at Mac: how to thoroughly embrace the places around us. They also gave my friends and I an excuse to eat around the Twin Cities, something we have done continually and exorbitantly since!

How proud I felt after finally finishing my Spain map in GIS!

Drone flying field trip for Advanced Remote Sensing!

When the entire Remote Sensing class spring '23 happened to be in the lab one night in order to cram an assignment that was the due the next morning. The camaraderie was off the charts <3

I loved getting to infodump about Appalachian protest music in Regional Geography of US & Canada. It was so fun to research how the geography of Appalachia fostered a culture that produced so many historically significant protest songs, some of which are still sung today. I'm thankful for the opportunity to explore one of my niche interests and share an often-overlooked, positive, radical perspective on an underappreciated region!



All About the Hansen Geography Research Endowed Fund

Moyartu Manley '27

The Leland and Kathleen Hansen Geography Research Endowed Fund empowers students to delve into cities' intricate systems to research pressing issues. In this article, Kathleen Hansen, a 1963 graduate, discusses her time at Macalester, her family's inter-generational connection to the college, the motivation behind establishing the Hansen Geography Research Endowed Fund, and its potential impact on Urban Geography.

"It all started with my father, Harold Lawler, who attended Macalester for three years, from 1932 to 1935," Kathleen explains, referencing her family's connection to Macalester. "He was even supposed to be the President of Kirk Hall his senior year," she adds with a touch of amusement. While Harold ultimately transferred to the University of Minnesota Dental School, his experience at Macalester clearly left a mark. This legacy continued with Kathleen herself, who arrived on campus in 1959 to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in medical technology, a program that no longer exists at the college.

Kathleen reflects on the origins of the Hansen Geography Research Endowed Fund: "When Lee [her husband] and I first discussed the possibility of making a gift to Macalester, we decided that geography would be a good place to put some money," she says. Since Kathleen's field no longer existed at the college and their daughter, Laura Hansen Smith, was already a faculty member in the Geography Department, this area felt like a natural fit. Kathleen also mentions Laura's positive experience with a summer program funded by the Blandin Foundation during her own time at Macalester, solidifying their decision to support student research endeavors.

"We wanted to contribute to the department's strengths and provide students with the resources to delve deeper into urban issues," Kathleen says. Looking beyond Macalester, Kathleen envisions the Hansen Fund making a broader contribution to the field of urban geography research.

"Well, you know, the students who get this go out into the larger world and work in various fields of geography," Kathleen explains. "And I hear from Laura about some of her former advisees who go on to do great things in the area of urban geography. And so, you know, we hope that that spreads across the country, wherever they go."

The Hansen Geography Research Endowed Fund serves as a testament to a commitment to fostering the next generation of urban geographers. By supporting student research, the fund has the potential to leave a lasting impact not just on Macalester but on the field of urban geography as a whole.

Alpha Delta Theta Members Prepare for Med Tech Field



Mac's Med Techs, Alpha Delta Theta, unite to prepare for careers in medical technology. They strive to achieve definite standards in their field, and to raise its prestige level. Through their organization they band together for exchange of knowledge and mutual advancement. Minneapolis was the site of this year's national medical technologists sorority convention which members attended. They sponsored a biology department trip to Cedar Creek game reserve, and participated in the joint science clubs' Christmas celebration.

Bottom row, (l-r): J. Nelson, K. Lawler, L. Montgomery, pres.; B. Dawson, R. Spencer. Row 2: L. McMartin, N. Barth, B. Cudd, J. Becker, D. Horning. Top row: Dr. O. Walter, advisor; G. Lagemann, W. Kuhl, D. Davis, Dr. Frenzel.



Moyartu Manley '27 and Kathleen Hansen '63

Celebrating at the Spring Dinner

Freeman Boda '26

The Geography Department's end-of-semester spring dinner went off without a hitch as awards were given out and this year's senior cohort was recognized for their accomplishments.

Of particular note, this year's Crystal Globe Award was presented to Ms. YuAnn Wang, Ms. Susan Liu, Dr. Andrew Liu, and Dr. Aspen Chen of the self-styled Taiwanese-Minnesotan Friends of Macalester Geography. Alongside other members

of the local Taiwanese-American community, their help has been an indispensable part of Macalester Geography's Geography of Asia course. The full award citation can be found on the [Macalester Geography website](#).

The dinner ended with a parody sing-a-long of the classic Muppet Movie song Rainbow Connection, titled "Perfect Projection", led by geography professor and departmental chair, Dan Trudeau.



Professors Trudeau and Chang with the Taiwanese-Minnesotan Friends of Macalester Geography



Geography 2024 Seniors!

Celebrating Geography's Departmental Award Recipients

Jane Slentz-Kesler, *Macalester Geography Award for Excellence of Scholarship*

Corgan Archuleta, Joe Harrington, and Katie Frye, *David A. Lanegran Award*

Lucas Eggers, Georgia Kretz, and Reece McKee, *Hildegard Binder Johnson Prize in Geography*



Honor Students Jane Slentz-Kesler '24, Corgan Archuleta '24, Joe Harrington '24, and Cecilia Kaufmann '24 (left to right)

AAG Roundup

Freeman Boda '26

The American Association of Geographers (AAG) met in Honolulu, Hawai'i, in late April for their annual conference and Macalester Geography honors students, Professors Haro-Carrión, McDonald, Moseley and Trudeau, along with a few alumni, were in attendance.

They took time from their busy conference schedule to meet up at the Waikiki Brewing Company to enjoy some cold drinks alongside the wonderful Hawaiian weather.



Students gather around the Lē'ahi Volcanic Cone US Geodetic Survey control point. A real datum!



Mac Geographers geolocating Minnesota at AAG 2024!



Mac Gathering in Honolulu

Farewell, GTU!

Esteemed Colleagues in the Discipline of Geography,

As we near the end of our time at Macalester, we wanted to reflect on the past year in Geography and GTU. This year saw highlights from the new Lanegran Days alumni-student dinner, the Twin Cities Geography Mixer, and even the christening of our geography bowling ball! These efforts were the culmination of not only our work but the shared vision from the department and the tireless work of Laura Kigin, Dan Trudeau, and all the Geography faculty.

We want to especially thank all Mac Geographers for making this year a success and for contributing to our department's culture. Whether it be procrastinating in the Geography lounge, late nights in the GIS lab, or comparing Spain maps at Joe's House, you all embrace your passions in so many ways. We believe what sets our department apart is this close-knit culture. A culture that cares for those around us and brings enthusiasm to the work and people within and beyond our community. It's what drew us both to geography in the first place and continues to attract others. We will miss seeing you all around the department next year and sharing geography puns or the obligatory debate on car-centric urban fabric.

To all geography seniors, we wish you well and are grateful we got to share our time at Mac together. We look forward to sharing a drink at a Lanegran Days celebration in the future!

Joe Harrington and Corgan Archuleta, 2023-2024 GTU Co-Presidents

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 10th
Geography Grad Reception

May 11th
Macalester Commencement

September 3rd
Start of Fall Semester

NEXT ISSUE

Alumni Updates
Faculty Spotlight
... and much more!

Alumni, What's Up?

We've heard from several of you in response to our past calls to action and hope to include a special alumni updates section in the next edition.

If you've been out and about, tell us what you've been up to! Where in the world are you? What have you been doing since you left Macalester? Have you traveled to far off places? Written a book? Started a new business?

[Submit an update here](#)

Want More?

Keep up with the wider Macalester Geography community by joining our LinkedIn Group (Macalester College Geography Network), Facebook Group (Macalester College Geographers), or follow us on Instagram (@macgeography).



THE GRATICULE

Macalester Geography Department Newsletter

Newsletter Contributors

Freeman Boda '26
Moyartu Manley '27
Corgan Archuleta '24
Joe Harrington '24
Dan Trudeau

Departmental Support

Laura Kigin

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.

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macalester.edu/geography