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Geographical *focus*

A NEWSLETTER FROM **STANISLAUS STATE'S** GEOGRAPHY PROGRAM TO GRADUATED AND FRIENDS

"CASA will serve as conduit for outreach to our regional community... will coordinate internships, facilitate grant development, and conduct projects in partnership with campus and community members. These projects will improve students learning by providing applied experiential learning and professional development opportunities."

Dr. McNally, Co-Director

Letter from the Department Chair

Dear Geographers and Geography Friends,

I'm very proud to report on the Stanislaus State Geography's 2018-19 accomplishments.

I thank the faculty and staff for all of their dedication to the program. **Dr. Austin** was just awarded a 2019 E. Kika De La Garza Science Fellowship. **Dr. McNally** worked with State Superintendent of Education Torlakson on developing K-12 environmental curriculum. **Dr. Díaz-Garayúa** co-authored a book chapter on displays of identity politics. I especially want to recognize the important work of our part-time lecturers: **Chuck Bowen, Dr. Dick Eigenheer, Cece Hudelson, Cameron Pallotta, Dr. Catherine Garoupa White, Dr. Tometi Gbedema,** and **Gene Barrera**. They bring an essential depth to our course offerings and teach the majority of our students. I am very excited that Dr. Eigenheer will be returning

to join us in the fall 2019 semester. I appreciate all the work **Cameron Pallotta** does to maintain our GIS Lab, especially with the re-location of our lab due to the library renovation. Of course, none of this could happen without the strong support of our Administrative Coordinator, **Susan Helm-Lauber**. I congratulate Susan on her retirement! Despite the campus closure due to poor, smoky air quality, I would also like to thank **Gene Barrera**, Merced County GIS Manager, **Kevin Butler**, ESRI Product Manager, **Roza Calderón**, Geoscientist, and **Sophia García**, Dolores Huerta Foundation GIS Analyst, for being our 2018 GIS Day Keynote Speakers.

Congratulations to our 2019 Graduates and Student Achievers. **Alex Tagge** is the 2019 Outstanding BA Student in Geography. **Emma Denison** was invited to join Phi Kappa Phi, our University's top Honor Society. **Emma Denison, Trevor McManis, Nancy Brooks, Mariela Quezada,**

James Alexander, Deanna Delgado, Kurt Wolken, Natalie Villa, Brock Blades, and Camden Lorenzo were invited to join Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU), the Geography Honor Society. *Germán Silva* was awarded an NSF Graduate Fellowship and was admitted in to a fully-funded graduate program at UC Santa Barbara's Geography Department. *Mary Self, Sonyia Narayan, Trevor McManis, Alex Tagge, Victoria Martinez, and Mariela Quezada* presented papers, posters, and maps at the CGS conference. Congratulations to *Sonyia Narayan* for winning second place in the CGS Poster Competition for her work on the stream morphology of Dry Creek! Mentored by Dr. Austin, *Sonyia Narayan's*, research was funded by a SERSCA Assistantship. Her conference travel was supported by an additional SERSCA Travel Grant. *Alex Tagge's* conference travel was funded by a CAHSS Student Travel Grant.

Victoria Martinez was a WRPI/USDA Water Resources Intern, mentored by Dr. McNally and *Meg Gonzalez* at the Tuolumne River Trust, and Victoria was featured in a San Francisco Chronicle article. I welcome back *Sonya Narayan* from studying abroad in India, and wish *Deanna Delgado* and *Alissa-Monique Bravo* well on their studies in Poland and Taiwan. Thank you to the

Office of International Education for providing these opportunities to our students.

We appreciate the support of our community in providing internships for many of our students: *Germán Silva* (Stan State Facilities), *Camden Lorenzo* (City of Oakland), *Kurt Wolken* (Tuolumne River Trust), *James Alexander* (Merced County), *Mary Self* (TID), and *Jacqueline Torrecillas* (TID). Thank you to the support of the Office of Service Learning.

We have many exciting opportunities to look forward to next year. *Drs. McNally* and *Díaz-Garayúa* will oversee the opening of the new *Center for Applied Spatial Analysis (CASA)* office. We invite you learn more about *CASA* and to attend our *November 2019 GIS Day Celebration* (More Information to Follow). I thank everyone for their contributions to our program. Have a wonderful and safe summer.

Sincerely,

Peggy Hauselt
Geography Chair

The GIS Instructional Laboratory has move!

by: Dr. Díaz-Garayúa

The Geographic Information Systems Instructional Laboratory (GIS Lab), previously located in the Library (room G-110L), has moved due to library renovations. The GIS Lab is now located in the Library Annex building LX2.

The GIS Lab location change did not affected the amount of workstations. The GIS Lab still having a capacity for 20 students. In fact, the location change added a workstation for the instructor. The GIS Lab also offer

working tables used for GIS lectures, group work, and others.

The GIS Instructional Laboratory generally host those courses in any of the geotechniques (i.e. GIS, Advanced GIS, Urban GIS, Introduction to Geospatial Applications, Remote Sensing, and others). However, there are other courses that benefit from the GIS Instructional Laboratory such as Geomorphology and Urban Geography among others. The GIS Instructional Laboratory is open to student in hours other than those scheduled for classes.



SOUTH ENTRANCE

Faculty in Residence



Dr. Peggy Hauselt (Ph.D. Geography, UC Davis, 2007) joined the Geography Program in 2007. Currently, Dr. Hauselt is the Chairperson of Anthropology, Geography, and Ethnic Studies Department and Director of the Interdisciplinary Studies MA/MS Program. She has taught courses of Field Methods, GIS, Advanced GIS, Agricultural Geography, and the popular course of Geography of Wine. Her research interest focuses on agricultural effects on environmental and biogeographic landscapes.



Dr. Augustine Awunudiogba (Ph.D., Geography, University of Texas, Austin, 2012) joined the Geography Program in 2007. His area of expertise includes fluvial geomorphology (hydrology and watershed processes), environmental sustainability, and human modification of the natural environment. Dr. Awunudiogba applies geospatial technology into his teaching and research. Dr. Awunudiogba is 1 of 4 USDA 2019 E. Kika De La Garza Science Fellows.



Dr. Alison McNally (Ph.D. Geography, UC Davis, 2014) joined the Geography Program in 2014. Dr. McNally received the prestigious Elizabeth Anne B. Papageorge Faculty Development Award (2017-2018). Dr. McNally is interested in water accessibility and sustainability issues. She has done research on the Antioch Dunes, California focusing on impacts to the habitat and population of the federally endangered Lange's Metalmark butterfly. Dr. McNally is Co-Director of CASA—Center of Applied Spatial Analysis.



Dr. José R. Díaz-Garayúa (Ph.D. Geography, Kent State, 2008) joined the Geography Program in 2016. Dr. Díaz-Garayúa is a human geographer interested in inequities in urban areas, human-environment relations, identity, cultural politics of place, and GIS as a tool for community empowerment. Dr. Díaz-Garayúa coauthored a book chapter about cultural politics of place another book chapter about planning in Puerto Rico, which is forthcoming in 2020. Dr. Díaz-Garayúa is Co-Director of CASA — Center of Applied Spatial Analysis.

Affiliated Faculty — Associate Dean International Education

Dr. Jennifer Helzer (Ph.D. Geography, 1998) joined the Geography Program in 2001. She was promoted to professor of geography in 2012. Appointed Interim Director of International Education, Dr. Helzer is the representative to the Chancellor's Office for the Academic Council on International Programs.

Adjunct Faculty

Gene Barrera (MCRP, UC Berkeley, 2005) is GIS Manager at Merced County. He joined Stanislaus State in 2017 as Lecturer for Planning Issues. He has taught other courses including GIS.

Charles Bowen (M.S. Geography, University of Georgia, 1967) teaches courses in physical geography and human ecology. He has taught Geography of North America and California Cultures and Environments among others. Chuck also enjoy joining the course Geographical Processes in Arid Landscape at Death Valley.

Dr. Tometi Gbedema (Ph.D., UC Davis, 2005) joined Stanislaus State in 2018. He holds an MS in Community Development and a PhD in Human Geography. Tometi has taught Africa South of the Sahara, California Cultures and Environments, and Geography of the Delta Region.

Cece Hudelsonn (M.S. Geography, London School of Economics, 1990) generally teaches Introduction to Cultural Geography and Cultural Geography at Stanislaus State. Ms. Hudelson also has a Master degree in economic development.

Cameron Pallotta (M.S., CSU, Stanislaus, 2018) joined Stanislaus State in 2003 as Computer Lab Manager for Modern Languages, Music, and Geography. As adjunct professor, Mr. Pallotta teaches physical geography lab courses and also have taught introduction to GIS.

Ms. Rebecca Van Stokkum (Ph.D. Candidate, UC Davis) joined the Geography Program in 2019. Her research interests are Information flows regarding resources management and the political ecology of participatory frameworks at the local government scale and the political cultural of urban slums. Her international focus is Venezuela.

Dr. Catherine Garoupa White (Ph.D. Geography, UC Davis, 2016) joined the Geography Program in 2016. Currently, Dr. Garoupa White is Coalition Coordinator at the California Against Fracking & Dangerous Drilling. She is also a Steering Committee Member for the Central Valley Air Quality Coalition.

Staff and Student Worker

Christina Afflejer—Meyer, joined us in October 2019 as the Department of Anthropology, Geography, and Ethnic Studies Program Assistant.

Joshua Murega, joined us in September 2019 as the department's student assistant.

Geography meets Humanities: A Focus on Social Justice

Wednesday, November 13, 2019 | 3:00 PM – 8:30 PM

MSR 130, California State University, Stanislaus

Bilingual (**English and Spanish**) sessions

Free and open to public – Free Parking in Lot 11

SAVE THE DAY

12:00 – 2:50 PM *CASA | Center for Applied Spatial Analysis*

Grand Opening – Library Annex LX 3.2

3:00 – 3:30 PM *Michael Contreras, M.S.*

Using 3D and GIS in Real-World Scenarios

3:30 – 4:00 PM *Kevin Butler, Ph.D.*

Quantifying patterns of particulate matter (PM_{2.5})

4:00 – 4:30 PM *Gene Barrera, MCRP*

Serving those with access and functional needs

4:30 – 5:00 PM *Victoria Martinez, B.A.*

Geographical Analysis and Environmental (In)Justice

5:00 – 6:00 PM *Poster Session*

6:00 – 6:30 PM *Vanessa Lopez-Asaah, MSW, ACSW*

The landscape of maternal mental health

6:30 – 7:00 PM *Analisa Zamora, MPH*

Creating healthy neighborhoods as a community

7:00 – 7:30 PM *Sophia Garcia, B.A.*

Participatory GIS: Census, Redistricting & Power

7:30 – 8:30 PM *Michelle Aguilar, M.A.*

Screening of documentary: El Cacao



Geography meets Humanities: A Focus on Social Justice was made possible with support from California Humanities, a non-profit partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Visit www.calhum.org.

For information:

Christina Affleje-Meyer, Geography Program Coordinator
Phone: 209-667-3127

www.csustan.edu/geography/geography-meets-humanities



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GEOGRAPHY

Professional Development: 2019 California Geographical Society at Big Bear Lake

by: Brock Blades, Geography Major

The California Geographical Society's (CGS) annual conference recently took place on May 3rd to the 5th in Big Bear Lake, California. Each spring, CGS, the state's oldest geographical organization, hosts a conference dedicated towards initiating social interactions between professionals and students within the realm of the discipline. The California State University, Stanislaus Geography Department gives students the opportunity to easily attend this conference, offered as a one unit upper-division course: **GEOG 4720 – Local Field Excursions**.

We were particularly lucky to have been enrolled in this course — this past Spring 2019 semester — because the conference was being held in such a desirable location. Big Bear Lake is a small alpine town situated within the San Bernardino Mountains which occupy the eastern portion of the Transverse Range. Copious amounts of recreational activities exist immediately within and around Big Bear Lake's city limits. Fishing and horseback riding are popular activities in the warmer months of the year. Snow Summit, home to the 2019 Fox US Open Race Festival, as well as southern California's only lift accessed mountain bike park, exists directly uphill from town. In the winter, Snow Summit serves as a ski and snowboard park. Hiking trails, too, are scattered throughout the San Bernardino Mountains. The Pacific Crest Trail, which runs along the western portion of the North American Cordillera from Mexico to Canada, traverses the Range on the north side of the lake.

Village Drive and Pine Knot Avenue offer extensive shopping and dining options for those interested in grabbing some grub or hitting-the-town. Whiskey Dave's services the community with billiards, sodas, and live hard-rock music, while Big Bear Brewing Company prepares

some of the finest, and only ale brewed in town.

The first day of the conference began early in the morning on Friday. The students and professionals gathered at the Lodge for check-in and for gathering their lunches. Immediately after signing-in, all attendees departed on a day's-long field trip that they had chosen. I went on a tour showcasing the sag ponds and fault scarps along the San Andreas Fault. Other toured the Mojave Desert, which consisted of a stop at the Joshua Tree National Park, some hiked above town to the headwaters of the Santa Ana River, some bounced around between the various quirky mountain towns in the region, and

some of the attendees learned about local tree-ring analysis.

Upon returning from their field trips in the evening, attendees were greeted with a tri-tip dinner (while some of those opted for vegan and vegetarian options) followed by a presentation from Richard W. Halsey, the director of the California Chaparral Institute.



**Brock at the highest point in
San Andreas Fault**

The next morning, the attendees gathered back at the conference center to begin the second day of the conference. Student presentations, such as posters and online maps, commenced the start of the events. Judges, consisting of professionals within CGS, individually rated each presentation for fur-



Brock's view of San Andreas Fault Sag Pong

ther ado. After this two-hour period, 15-minute presentations were given by undergraduate and graduate students, and as well as by professionals. Presentations spanned the wide array of topics within field of geography. Just to name a few, these included: post-fire forest recovery of an oak woodland in Sonoma County, water scarcity in Yemen, proper techniques for using satellite-derived data, tree-ring analysis pertaining to climate response in the Himalayas, debris flows in the Santa Barbara area associated with wildfire, and teaching adventures in mountainous field geography.

Immediately before our hour-and-a-half lunch break, Todd Hall of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) gave a presentation on climate change with guest Richard Halsey. The presentation focused on the 2018 Montecito debris flows and how the NOAA has responded and is preparing for such weather scenarios in the future.

Once the presentation period had ceased, all

attendees arrived back at the banquet room for a final dinner and awards ceremony. First, second, and third place awards were given to the distinct presentation classes such as for posters, online maps, essays, and PowerPoint presentations. Congratulations to Sonyia Narayan of California State University, Stanislaus for achieving the second place in the poster presentation category.



Sonyia enjoying her 2nd place

The Spring 2019 Local Field Excursions course was an absolute success. It has, undoubtedly, been one of my favorite courses since pursuing my geography degree at Stanislaus State. In fact, attending the CGS conference is now something that I wish to do on an annual basis. Next year, the conference is to be held at an undisclosed venue in the East San Francisco Bay Area.

Why Geography matters for students now more than ever

by: Chris Heffernan [[@cheffernan75](#)] | April 17, 2017

[Original version: <https://worldgeochat.wordpress.com>]

When I was hired as a geography teacher in 2001, I was out of my element. I was a history person. I knew bizarre bits of American history and ancient civilization, but nothing about geography. In that first year, my career plan was simple: wait it out. Wait until there was an opening in ancient civilizations or U.S. history, and then move to that curriculum.

The only geography class I ever took was in the seventh grade. I remember learning basic map skills – latitude and longitude, cardinal directions, scale and how to interpret the key. We learned about landforms like peninsulas, straits and mountains. We discussed climate and biomes. Most important (apparently), we took map quizzes.

But since I started my geography career in August 2001, I experienced a “Sputnik” moment for geography in the wake of 9/11.

Like everyone else, I have vivid memories of that day. I remember my students doing an activity using road maps to find the best route across the state of Illinois. But while my students sat in groups with giant Illinois road maps, trying to figure out interstates and state routes, the world had changed dramatically.

As we began to process who had done this, a more important question emerged. Why? Why did people want to do this to us? I remember the Newsweek cover story a few weeks after by Fareed Zakaria called “Why they hate us.” Most of us had no idea.

It became obvious that it wasn’t just my students who needed to learn about the world, but that I did too. I knew where Afghanistan was on a map, but I didn’t know much more than that. I didn’t know what the Taliban was. I didn’t understand that the government was one of the most repressive governments in the world. In my mind, Afghanistan was the country that had fought off the Soviet Union in the 1980s, so therefore, they must be our ally. I may have known the physical geography of Afghanistan, but I was ignorant to the

human geography that existed there.

Geography matters today more than ever, but only if we are looking at the right things. Google has changed our world, and geography is included in that. I haven’t given my students a map quiz in years because there isn’t really a need to memorize where countries are. Students can Google any country in the world to find its location.

Geography matters more now than ever because students need to know human geography. They need to understand the relationships that exist between cultures. They need to see not just the differences in cultures, but the similarities. Students need to know that the kid sitting in a school in Afghanistan today probably doesn’t speak the same language, practice the same religion or live in a home that looks anything like a student in the United States, but they have a lot of things in common. They both love their families, the both want to play and they both want to learn. When we focus on the similarities instead of the differences, it changes the picture.

Geography matters today more than ever because our students are growing up in a globalized world. Nearly all business is international. Our students will never work in isolation. They need to know that the other people they work with, whether in a cubicle down the hall or on a screen halfway around the world, all have ideas and value. While they might see the problem and solution differently, they still see the problem and have solutions.

Geography matters now more than ever because of global crises that range from migration to climate change to pandemics.

Geography matters because learning about problems isn’t enough; we have to take action to solve them.

Geography matters because we are all connected. Geography matters because this is our world.

What a geographer does?

by: Dr. Díaz-Garayúa

Our society has not done a good job teaching the value of the Social Sciences. We are living, for good or ill, in an individualized society, which every day is more segmented and polarized. Unlike engineering, medicine, education, accounting, or law, people have no problem in figuring out the need of these disciplines in society. Of course, people know that engineers build, physicians practice medicine, teachers educate, accountants keep the books, and lawyers... well, we know. However, people have problem figuring out what a geographer does.

This is a problem that many disciplines face in today's world, specially in the humanities and social science. Geography, a social science, (in many universities geography is a social science due to the human factor), has been impacted by this phenomenon. I have been asked more than a handful of times, "what a geographer does?"

First, we have to make clear that geography exists because is valuable to society (and this apply to the Arts, Humanities, and other Social Sciences as well) because geographers solve real-world problems.

Second, professional geographers frequently find jobs in both public and private sector as well as profit and non-profit sector. Geographers work in federal, state, and local agencies. They are geographic information systems analysts, market researchers, planners, intelligence analysts, Public Diplomacy Officers, etc. (for a complete view go to <https://bit.ly/1Ru7OFc>).

Third, in my case as a scholar, in addition to teaching, I do research in geography. We try to understand where things are found, why things are were they are, and how things change over time and space. We pay attention to phenomena's variation across space. Geography not only describes but more important explains and predicts.

But what after research? What comes after research is the development of sound public policy. Let me bring an example. Scholars has long been studying (i.e. inequalities, segregation, etc.). During many years geographers - and other scientists - have been researching and writing about food deserts. On 2009, the Baltimore City Food Policy Task Force submitted a final report and recommendations about this spatial phenomenon in the city. In doing so, social scientist applied their knowledge —doing research— that benefit society. However, public policies are not necessarily an exact mirror of scientific research. Public policy makers, those elected by the people, are under different pressures such as finishing quickly a job, producing results that people can see and touch, therefore, perception of residents, voters, etc. In other words, sometimes public policy maker do not create sound public policies necessary to advanced the common welfare due to external pressures.

Finally, this is a problem that we scientists face. Our final product, very often is not similar to what public policy makers propose. This make it harder to the general population to see the value of geography, or any social science, in our society. This is why very often a clear connection cannot be established about what geographers do or how valuable geography is. Unfortunately, seems that this is the norm dealing with social sciences. [But, a more positive note is the increasing job market for Geotechniques (i.e. Geographic Information Systems, Remote Sensing, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, etc.) in both public and private sector.]

Not knowing about what geographers do is not a fail of the discipline itself but the society. A society that has crafted an image of what is "relevant", "exciting", and "valuable" based on how much money people can make or a fictitious image of a lifestyle. Conversely, I prefer a livable city.

Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics ranks GIS and geospatial technology among the fastest-growing industries in the nation. Many businesses and agencies in the region are already using GIS technology in exciting and innovative ways, often thanks to CSU Stanislaus graduates.

Geospatial Analysis of Human Environmental Change is an interdisciplinary master's concentration that integrates geography with related disciplines. The program provides a strong foundation in geographic concepts and methods, with in-depth coursework in geospatial technology and landscape analysis.

Beyond geography, students will work with a faculty member in a secondary discipline that informs and enhances their area of study. Students complete courses in this secondary discipline in consultation with their committee and are required to complete a research-based thesis.

The program is designed to prepare students for careers in geospatial technology — such as GIS, planning or precision agriculture — or for pursuing a Ph.D. in geography or a related discipline.

The Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies (M.S.I.S.) offers a Concentration in Geospatial Analysis of Human-Environmental Change can help you to start or advance your career in a number of fields, including:

- Urban and Regional Planning
- Environmental Resource Management
- Watershed Management, Water Quality and Hydrology
- Cartography and Visualization
- Precision Agriculture
- Tourism and Recreation

Curriculum

(36 units, including 25 graduate units)

Geographic Foundations (7-8 units)

GEOG 5800 – Geographic Thought

GEOG 5850 – Graduate Research

GEOG 5000 – Current Trends (1-2 units)

Geospatial Analysis (6 units)

GEOG 5852 – Advanced GIS

GEOG 5770 – Remote Sensing

Landscape Analysis (4 units) Choose One

GEOG 5700 – Geographic Processes

GEOG 5350 – Urban Design & Sustainability

GEOG 5250 – Ethnoecology of Southeast Asia

Graduate Development (9-10 units)

GEOG 4720 – Local Field Excursions (1-2 units)

GEOG 5980 – Independent Study (Assistantship)

GEOG 5900/5990 – Research/Thesis Units (6 units)

Interdisciplinary Foundations (9 units)

For information in the Geospatial Concentration:

Dr. Peggy Hauselt, Program Director

Phone: (209) 667-3010

E-Mail: phauselt@csustan.edu

www.geography.edu/geography

Students Spotlight



Victoria conducting research at the Tuolumne River | Photo: Photos by Jessica Christian / The Chronicle

Jessica Carey

(Geography 2017) She is Assistant Planner at Mariposa County is GIS Project Lead at UCD, in Tampa, FL.

Gabby Hadley

(Geography 2016) She is GIS Project Lead at UCD, in Tampa, FL.

Logan Malavey

(Geography 2018) He is GIS Technician at Blue Ridge Services in Mariposa County.

Victoria Martinez

(Geography 2019) She was hired as an intern for the Water Resources and policy Initiatives (WRPI). In 2019 she joined Colonized Media as Data and System Analyst.

Sonyia Narayan

(Geography 2019) She was hired as a Park Ranger Intern for U.S. Army Corp of Engineers in Knights Ferry in Stanislaus County, California.

Marylu Pulido

(Geography 2018) She is an intern at Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

Mariela Quezada

(Geography, 2019), is an intern with the Tuolumne River Trust.



Germán Silva | Photo: Turlock Journal

Germán Silva

(Geography, 2019) He was a McNair scholar and worked as the campus cartographer. Germán digitized all trees (3,543 to be exact) and released their location, including the trees common name as well as Latin name and a photo of the tree, on an interactive Story Map (<https://www.csustan.edu/campus-tree-story-map>).

Germán was accepted to continue graduate studies at University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) with full scholarship. In addition, the National Science Foundation granted him addition funding.

Alex Tagge

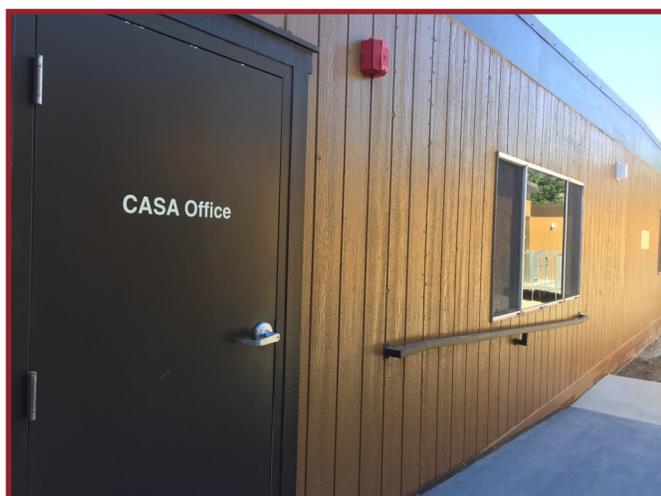
(Geography 2019), He is now graduate student at the M.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies at Stanislaus State.

Center for Applied Spatial Analysis (CASA)

by: Dr. Díaz-Garayúa, Co-Directors of CASA

The 2019-2020 Academic Year brought us the newly created Center for Applied Spatial Analysis (CASA). CASA is the brainchild of Dr. Alison McNally who has arduously been working on the concept and development during several years. CASA has also been possible to a generous donation from the Cordova Family and the unconditional support of Dean Tuedio, Provost Greer, and President Junn. CASA has materialized with a physical presence in the building LX3 at our Stanislaus State campus.

CASA will offer geospatial consulting services to our campus as well as the regional community. In this capacity, it will also serve as a conduit for outreach to our larger regional community. In addition, this center will coordinate internships, facilitate grant development, and conduct projects in partnership with campus and community members. The idea behind is that through these projects, CASA will contribute in improving student learning by providing applied experiential learning and professional development opportunities.



CASA is located in the building LX3



Partial view of CASA

CASA is a dedicated center for faculty, staff, and students to request research assistance as it relates to geospatial analysis (in example, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Remote Sensing, Global Positioning System (GPS), maps and other graphic display of geographical data). The facility is equipped with basic elements to start our work: four workstations including CASA's director, several boards, and a conference area with LCD projector and projection screen. In addition to other work equipment.

Projects may vary according to the specific needs such as 1) cartography and visualization, 2) Remote Sensing Data Preparation and Analysis, 3) Spatial Statistics and Analysis, 4) GIS Database and Design, 5) Spatial Modeling and 3D Visualization, and 5) Preparation and Analysis of Field Data.

You can contact CASA's co-directors: Dr. Alison McNally, Assistant Professor of Geography at amcnally@csustan.edu and Dr. José Díaz-Garayúa, Director of GIS at jdiazgarayua@csustan.edu.

Professional Development: 2019 California Geographical Society at Big Bear Lake

by: Mary Self, Geography Major

I attended the California Geographical Society Conference at Big Bear Lake in southern California. I presented a paper entitled "O'Sullivan and Images of Native Americans in Northern Arizona." My presentation focused on aspects of cultural and historical geography. Specifically, my research paper followed famous photographer Timothy O'Sullivan and how his photographs impacted the discourse of Western expansionism in America after the Civil War. I discovered that presenting my research paper at the conference helped me to harness my academic capabilities and be unafraid of discussion and discourse with audience members.



Mary Self presenting at the 2019 CGS Meeting

In addition to my own presentation, I attended many other presentations where I learned about the multifaceted world of geography. A common theme among many of the presentations was physical geography, specifically pertaining to the environment. Whether this was wildfires, erosion, gardening, etc., many student geographers who attended this conference seemed to share a common interest in that area of study. However, there were a handful of students, myself included, who presented about topics relating to cultural geography.

I also enjoyed viewing many of the posters that were presented by students from across California. In fact, some of these people were my classmates! As with the paper presentations, the posters shared a common theme of physical geography which pertained to environmentalism. Many of the posters shared information about wildlife and forested areas that had been under threat due to California's ravenous wildfires the past few years. I also saw posters displaying information about legal marijuana dispensaries and their distributions throughout communities in California. These types of presentations possessed important statistical data that could potentially be used by many public agencies due to them being pertinent topics in California politics at the moment.

Friday, May 3rd, was the first official day of the conference and I, as well as other attendees, went on different field trips for the day. My assigned trip was called "San Andreas." It was here that we covered a long tract of the southern portion of the San Andreas fault line, making our way through the San Bernardino Mountains, eventually crossing the valley and ending up on the other side into the San Gabriel Mountain Range. I gained a deeper understanding of where fault scarps are located, as well as some of the geologic processes that occur due to fault movements. In addition to this, our group traveled to the highest elevation on the San Andreas Fault. I thought this was quite tremendous. I thoroughly enjoyed the field trip portion of the conference because I think that getting close to nature is a key component of geography, and it was also a key theme of the conference this year! I will forever look at CGS 2019 as a place and time of academic and personal growth for myself. I enjoyed making new friends as well as strengthening those friendships that already exist.

*Stanislaus State Geography Program is looking for
your business card!!!*

The Geography Program is looking for alumni's business card as part of and on going project. We are tracking where in the world are you! The idea is to create a poster and a GIS online tool to showcase you! Alumni from our Geography Program at Stan State.

We encourage you, to send your business card. We want our current students, and those who might want to join our discipline, to realize the wide range of career options our geography graduates have taken. In saying this, don't think your job has to be "geographical enough" to send it. Actually, we want those as well. The skills of a geographer are handy everywhere.

Send your business card to:

**Geography Program
One University Circle
Turlock, CA 95382**

In doing so, the next time you open the newsletter, you might see your business card instead of looking at this.



*Do you live near
Stanislaus State?
Keep in touch!
we are always
looking for
potential guest
speakers who wants
to share their work
experiences as
professional
geographers.*

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