Since the 2008 economic recession, critiques have emerged about the value of a liberal arts education, with popular jokes about the non-utility of degrees like art history or even geography. Liberals arts institutions are usually a compilation of many different disciplines, as opposed to schools such as business and journalism, where there is a strong, central subject focus. This makes creating a streamlined message that fits in news bites and online memes difficult to craft.

In response to this criticism, recent writing has focused on the utility of a liberal arts education not only to craft good citizens, but also to create an innovative and diverse workforce. Institutions ranging from Apple to Nike to The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation recognize the value that liberal arts majors bring to their labor pools. Liberal arts majors bring creativity, problem-solving, an understanding of data and how to use it, diverse perspectives, effective communication, and more transferable skills to their jobs.

Employees can be taught how to complete tasks, but it is harder for an employer to teach someone critical thinking or creativity—skills gained in a liberal arts education.

Further, students of geography bring with them a perspective of scale and systems thinking. This contributes to an appreciation of how a range of political, cultural, economic, and environmental processes relate to each other from the global to the local and back again. These are perspectives that employers—and society—increasingly recognize as valuable to understanding the processes shaping our planet.

In light of these debates and discussions, the Department of Geography has expanded its professional development outreach, working to connect students to alumni, especially by bringing alumni to campus to talk about their journeys and what really happens after college. One of the most visible aspects of this has been the development of a course only open to geography and Spatial Data Science and Technology majors called The Professional Geographer. This course takes students through the process of identifying where they are at (skills, experiments, interests, etc.) and figuring out where they want to go through guided job searches. The remainder of the course is identifying concrete steps to get there, with a focus on networking, developing an online presence (including an online portfolio), and developing résumés and interview skills.

College students (and sometimes faculty
Letter from the Department Head

The Department of Geography begins a new academic year, buoyed by new faculty, new research projects and research spaces, fantastic graduate students, and new classes and growing interest in our majors. It has been some time since our last newsletter in 2016 and thus there is plenty to report.

Our department continues to emphasize the importance of the breadth that a geography degree offers while still acknowledging the importance of technical skills in areas of fast growth. This is reflected by our new major, Spatial Data Science and Technology, which now has 41 undergraduates signed up. We welcome two new assistant professors directly related to this new major: Henry Luan, who works in big spatial data analytics, GIS and public health and crime; and Caroline Fish, who researches map design, climate change communication, and mapping environment-society interactions.

We also had two other additions to our faculty last year. Lucas Silva is an assistant professor appointed jointly with the Department of Environmental Studies. He studies terrestrial ecology and biogeochemistry, soil-plant-atmosphere interactions, and climate-change impacts. Laura Pulido joined the faculty jointly appointed with the Department of Ethnic Studies. Her research is on race, environmental justice, labor, and Chicano/Chicana studies.

I like to boast that our graduate students come out of this program not only as scholars of their particular fields, but also as highly trained instructors across a breadth of topics. No wonder that our graduate students are so successful at obtaining jobs in academia or elsewhere. The same can be said for the undergraduate majors: our students emerge thinking critically about the diverse processes at play in today’s world and with the skills to analyze and communicate them. Leslie McLees, our undergraduate coordinator, advisor, and instructor continues to provide guidance and capstone course experiences for our students and as such is a tireless advocate for our major on campus.

We are excited to be in the midst of planning the construction of a new building that will house the Department of Geography, the Environmental Studies Program, and the School of Planning, Public Policy and Management along with several classrooms. This project is in its early stages, with the building site soon to be chosen. It is of course with mixed emotions that we anticipate leaving beloved Condon Hall. Our many improved spaces in Condon, most funded by generous donors to the department, are being incorporated into the design of the new building. All three of the programs in the new building are growing in size and scope and the new building will make collaboration with our colleagues that much easier.

Enjoy catching up on the many things happening in the Department of Geography!

Dan Gavin
Department Head

Thank You, Staff and Student Workers

As always, our department could not function effectively without the amazing work by our office staff. We are very fortunate to have them with us. Here’s a little about what they’ve been up to this year:

Lisa Knox (above left)
As the department manager for geography, I have been here long enough to realize how great the faculty is! Nyease Somersett and I are the only staff for 90 plus faculty and graduate employees, so the days always go by quickly, and I appreciate my partner in crime. My husband John and I have two daughters that both graduated from George Washington University prior to attending the UO. Now, MacKenzie is a third grade teacher in Bend, and Taylor is an RN at Riverbend Hospital.

Nyease Somersett (above right)
I am Nyease Merlyn Somersett, named after a French grandmother, father, and husband. I majored in art, illustrated books, had an art studio in Sausalito, California, for 26 years while working as a paralegal for an estate planning lawyer. My husband, Donald, retired and we relocated to Eugene in 2007 for new adventures. I love working at the Department of Geography with our Wonder Woman, Lisa Knox, Department Manager of Absolutely Everything. I am also an affectionate owner of a Jack Russell terrier if you would like to talk dogs, and companion to a loving husband for 40 years, if you want to talk about camaraderie and compassion.

We have also been fortunate to have several amazing student workers in the office this past year. Currently Haley Hemphill (above left) and Fiona De Los Rios-McCutcheon (above right) are helping us keep things running smoothly. We also want to thank Evelyn Tedrick, Gretta Blakenship, Sascha Chesler, Logan Schurtz, Marshal Clark, and Geoffrey Marcus for their contributions since our last newsletter!
Thank You for Your Generous Donations

Pledges to the Department of Geography by alumni and friends continue to be crucial for supporting students and faculty members in their teaching and research activities. We continue to be honored and humbled by your generous yearly contributions.

If you would like to contribute, please go to geography.uoregon.edu and select “Give Now” at the bottom of the page. Providing a gift in your will is another powerful way to support the Department of Geography. The UO Office of Gift Planning is an excellent resource if you are considering providing support for geography in your will. Call 800-289-2354 or visit giftplan.uoregon.edu for more information.

The following is a list of contributions received from September 1, 2014, through August 31, 2018. We apologize for any unintended errors or omissions.

Adrienne ’81 and David Banks
Alan Ayers ’15
Amy and Randall Thomas ’90
Ann and Harold Throckmorton MA ’62
Anna ’05, MEd ’06 and Bryan Gamble ’05, MEd ’06
Anne Forsyth MA ’77
Annell ’56 and Robert Carlson
Barbara ’69, MA ’74, PhD ’89 and Ross West MFA ’84
Barbara and Stephen Lane
Barbara and Timothy Young ’76
Barbara Andrews ’82
Barbara MA ’71, PhD ’77 and Ronald Adler
Barbara VanWinkle ’75, MLS ’76
Barbel PhD ’84 and Corey LaMar
Burrell Covey
Carlene and John Rowell ’64, MS ’69
Carol and Malcolm Campbell ’81
Carol and Scott Jackson ’72
Catherine Clifton ’84
Cecilia and Robert Armour ’67
Charles Gottfried MA ’92
Charles Martin ’86
Charles Rauch ’76
Charlotte ’81 and Armand Zanecchia PhD ’91
Christopher Fisk ’96
Cindy and Ralph Thompson MS ’75
Clark Hilden ’62, PhD ’80
Corey Johnson MA ’04, PhD ’08
Craig Cole ’81, ’83
Culley Polehn ’56
Dallia and Peter Lyons ’80
Daniel Gavin
Daphne MA ’96 and William White
Davis Family Trust
Deborah and Michael Kostel ’89
Deborah and Stewart Pagenerstecher ’74
Dorothy Freidel MA ’89, PhD ’93
Dwayne Jordan ’81
Edith and Michael Daharsh ’82
Elizabeth and Joel Nudelman ’83
Eric Gough ’94
Eric Sandberg ’05
Edward of T. Price
Estate of Joseph J. Davis III
Eugene Hoerauf ’65
Evelyn MS ’00 and Michael Berkley
Fey Bielh
Fred Walker MA ’71
Gail Rogers ’83
Gary Elbow MS ’63
Gayle and Stephen Newsom ’63
Glenn Bielh MS ’88
Glenn Griffith ’79
Gregory Garcia ’14
Gwen Scott MA ’00, PhD ’03
Harlow Head ’63, MA ’69, PhD ’71
Harold and Ann Throckmorton Family Trust
Harold Howard Jr.
Helen and Frederick Piellusch MA ’68
Helen and Robert Gwozdz ’89
Hope Gibson Smith
J. Warden George Jr. MA ’73, MA ’76
Jacob Bartruff ’06
Jacqueline ’00 and Eugene Carpentier ’00
Jakob Pippin ’10
James Harris ’73
Janet Ford
Janis and William Spicer ’86
Jean and Eric Stein ’83
Jean MEd ’86 and Dean Phelps PhD ’83
Jessie Liliadahl ’16
Joan and James Stembridge Jr. MA ’75, PhD ’75
Joan Moll ’50
John Korkosz ’92
Joseph Davis III ’57
Joshua Jaqua ’06
Joshua Mapanao ’11
Kathleen ’88 and Jonathan Oleson ’88
Kristina ’83 and Michael Golden ’77, MM ’80
Laura and Michael Benschmidt ’79
Lauren and Geoffrey Jacquez
Lawrence Nagel MLS ’77
Leanne ’64 and John Kennedy ’63
Leo Huff ’67, MA ’74
Linda and Stephen Beardslee ’63
Linda Wallers ’84
Lisa and Philip Cerro II ’80
Lisa Hawley ’90
Lisa Smolen ’90
Louise and Joseph Lepper MA ’71, PhD ’74
Lynn and John Norris ’74
Lynne Schneider and Richard Fusch PhD ’72
Mary ’78 and William Blick
Mary Goebel ’55
Mary and John Watkins ’65
Mary Churchill ’78
Mary MS ’03 and David Rodgers ’80
Mary O’Brien
Mary Smith
MaryAnn and Kevin Swanson
Mary-Clare and Henry Lawrence Jr. ’77, MLA ’78, PhD ’85
Mauda Caldwell MEd ’66
Maureen LaValley-Nieratko and Paul Nieratko II ’81
Maurice Johns ’03
Maylan Pak MA ’05 and Matthew Shapiro
Meg and Lester Rowntree MA ’70, PhD ’70
Melinda Buhl ’80, MS ’85 and Richard Koven ’77
Michael Cutter ’87
Michael Talia ’81
Ming-Sze and Eberhard Engelmann MA ’71
Molly MS ’69 and Arthur Greenberg PhD ’72
Nancy ’68 and David Benson
Nancy Forbes
Nancy Kern and Thomas Hickey Jr. JD ’91
Neal Kalez ’84
Owen Brown ’09
Patricia and Daniel Zeiger ’97
Patricia McDowell and Patrick Bartlein
Paul Levy
Paul Townsend ’97
Quinn Korbucic ’02
Raymond Hatton MA ’69, PhD ’89
Rebecca Korinek ’03
Reed Winner ’13
Rhino Prince ’13
Richard Grassetti MA ’81
Richard Moll ’55
Robert H. & Annell Carlson Revocable Living Trust
Robert Johnston ’95
Robert Richardson PhD ’73
Rosalyn McKeown-Ice MA ’77, PhD ’86 and Gene Ice PhD ’77
Rose and Robert Sauder MA ’69, PhD ’73
Sally Davis ’56
Sally Sharrard ’68, MA ’79
Sandra and Owen Jones Jr. ’66
Sarah ’73 and David Koss
Sarah Millsapgh PhD ’97
Sharon Reandeau PhD ’89
Shiena Polehn
Social Science Research Council
Sophie Luthin ’13
Stanton Tucker ’66
Steve Boone ’13
Steven Stermer ’75, MS ’79
Susan Gary and Alexander Murphy
Susan Hume PhD ’05
Susan MS ’73, PhD ’83 and Wes Reynolds MA ’77
Sylvia Chin-Chen-Leyv ’83
Sylvia Hatton
Sylvia Leal ’16
Terry ’78 and Douglas Morrison
Vicki and Donald Corson PhD ’80
Virginia Wallace and Said Lahlou
Wanda Henson ’67
William Crowley PhD ’72
Ye Wu ’11

Organizations
Association of American Geographers
California Native Plant Society
Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation
Hatton Family Trust
Geological Society of America
Preferred Futures
The Boeing Company
The Allstate Foundation
Ye Wu ’11

geography.uoregon.edu
Alumni Spotlights

M Jackson
Since earning her doctorate in 2017, M Jackson, PhD, has been very busy promoting her vision of how we can reimagine human interactions with the glacial landscapes transforming with climatic changes. As a 2017 National Geographic Society Emerging Explorer, a 2018 TED Fellow, and four-time Fulbright awardee, M has been in demand for public speaking engagements on several continents for her work on how climate change transforms people and ice communities. She also continues her work as an Expert for National Geographic Expeditions in Iceland, Alaska, and this fall to Antarctica, the Aleutians, Greenland, and other parts of the Arctic Circle. M has also been working with NGS to create glacier and climate change content for young children, including short videos, books, and voice-overs. M will release her second book, The Secret Lives of Glaciers, on December 2, 2018. M brings her geographic perspective and her gift of storytelling to the discussion of how climate change is situated in specific landscapes and places.

Joe Bard
Joe Bard earned his master’s degree in geography in 2016 and was able to return to his life in Portland and his job at the US Geological Survey Cascades Volcano Observatory in Vancouver, Washington. Joe is one of the lucky people to have the job title of geographer! His job primarily consists of geospatial analysis, visualization, and production of geologic map databases. This year, Joe participated in the response to the eruption of the Lower East Rift Zone of Kilauea volcano on the Big Island of Hawaii! His mission was to provide geospatial support to aid situational awareness for the USGS and their local partner agencies during this dynamic and exciting event!

Kevin Barrett
Upon graduation, Kevin Barrett continued his work at Oregon Research Institute as a data analyst assistant and research assistant. It was a random conversation with a friend that turned him on to the local craft beer industry. After many failed home brew attempts he decided to pursue the emerging micro-distillery industry—the next logical step in all things fermentation related. After some time contracting with another distillery and taking some business courses through RAIN (Regional Accelerator and Industry Network), he opened Swallowtail Spirits in 2014. Kevin focuses on using local ingredients and local partnerships to make small batches of his spirits and may work towards an organic certification next. He is also the vice president of the Oregon Distillers Guild, helping change state regulations around the enormous fees paid by distillers to the state for selling their spirits. Swallowtail is expanding its production globally and has earned several international awards. Kevin’s connection to place and landscape continues to inspire his desire for local ingredients and production.
Research Labs

The department’s five labs allow students and faculty members to collaborate

The InfoGraphics Lab team includes Jim Meacham (executive director), Alethea Steingisser (cartographic project manager), and Joanna Merson (cartographic developer). Joanna was welcomed to the lab in July 2017 as a cartographic web/mobile applications developer. Her primary duties are to design and build web/mobile mapping and other spatial data applications.

The lab is excited to announce the publication of a new atlas, *Wild Migrations: Atlas of Wyoming’s Ungulates*. You can find out more about the atlas at migrationinitiative.org/wild-migrations-atlas and osupress.oregonstate.edu/book/wild-migrations. As part of this project they have produced many Twitter and presentation maps, which you can find by searching #wyodeer on Twitter.

InfoGraphics has launched production of the second edition of *Atlas of Yellowstone* (in celebration of the 150th anniversary of Yellowstone National Park). The atlas focuses on the evolution of the national park idea. Graduate employee Justin Menke is playing a key role in developing this project.

InfoGraphics also worked on transforming Joseph Priestley’s *Chart of Biography* (1765) and *New Chart of History* (1769) into interactive infographics in collaboration with Daniel Rosenberg (Department of History). They also teamed up with the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries to launch a new design effort for a series of evacuation route maps *Beat the Wave Maps* for tsunami evacuation of Oregon’s coastal communities.

The lab’s alumni continue to make us proud! Some examples include Lauren Tierney at the *Washington Post*, Dylan Molnar at National Geographic Maps, and Riley Champine at National Geographic magazine.

The Critical Race Lab is dedicated to examining how racism and other power relations shape the landscape. They explore how racism and White supremacy articulate with larger economic and environmental processes, as well as other forms of difference, such as gender and immigration status. While environmental justice is an important research topic in the lab, other foci include Latinx immigration, the connections between homeless and environmental politics, and how cultural memory addresses (or doesn’t address) White supremacy. What unites all of their work is a focus on power dynamics and a commitment to transforming the world, including through scholarship and activism.

Professor Laura Pulido recently developed the Critical Race Lab to provide more intellectual community and support to UO geography students working in critical race theory. Graduate students affiliated with the lab are: Tianna Bruno, Christina Faiver-Serna, and Carlo Osorio Veliz. Erin Goodling is a postdoctoral researcher working with the lab and Fiona de Los Rios-McCutcheon is an undergraduate affiliate.

The Paleoeocology Lab, led by Dan Gavin, is part of our Environmental Change Research Group, the informal name for the physical geographers, which now encompasses four active groups.

The big event of the year has been the renovation of Pacific Hall into new labs: Dan Gavin’s paleoecology lab and Lucas Silva’s Soil-Plant-Atmosphere Lab have new lab space. We are extremely grateful to Cheryl and Allyn Ford for funding the complete renovation of Pacific Hall into laboratory spaces for natural sciences and human physiology.

Research in the paleoecology lab addresses the sensitivity of changing landscapes and biodiversity to the changing climate and human influences over millennia. They use pollen, charcoal, and various measurements from lake sediments, soils, and tree rings. PhD student Chantel Saban is addressing this topic in the arid landscapes around Summer Lake, near the site of the earliest evidence of humans in North America. PhD student Geoffrey Johnson is beginning to address these questions in the ponderosa pine forests of eastern Oregon where forest management is driven by the need to manage fuels in a highly flammable landscape. Lastly, PhD students Lauren Hendricks and Monika Ruwaimana are reconstructing the history
Research Labs, continued

of fire in tropical rainforest in Indonesian Borneo. This is an area where fires are eating away at forest cover during periodic El Niño-influenced droughts, yet the resistance of primary forest in protected areas to these fires is poorly understood. Recent master’s student Kate Hayes completed a similar project in the coast redwood forest. Research associate Erin Herring (PhD 2014) has been obtaining contract work for pollen analysis for a variety of projects, such as a project at the La Brea Tar Pits. Lastly, the lab hosted postdoc Christoph Schwörer from Switzerland and visiting PhD student Kira Hoffmann from the University of Victoria, both of which were very productive collaborations.

The Spatial Cognition, Computation, and Complexity Lab (SC3) is a place of research and teaching focused on the use of computational and experimental methods for investigating human interactions, behavior, and decision making with and within natural and built environments. Faculty members, staff members, graduate students, and undergraduate students participate in collaborative research projects aimed at understanding these complex geographic phenomena through cutting edge scientific methods that include emergent geospatial technologies, computational modeling, and neuroimaging. The SC3 Lab also hosts workshops on the use of geospatial technologies, complexity, and computational models for understanding our world. Students working with Amy Lobben, Henry Luan, and Carolyn Fish are affiliated with this lab including: Megen Brittell, Dongmei Chen, Mohammad Eshghi, Bill Limpisathian, Justin Menke, and Antoine Nzyimana.

The Soil-Plant-Atmosphere Lab (SPA) was established when Lucas Silva joined the Department of Geography in the fall of 2017. SPA bridges research areas within the Environmental Studies Program, Department of Geography, and Institute of Ecology and Evolution to understand fundamental processes that influence the distribution and function of terrestrial ecosystems.

Current projects address emerging challenges for environmental sustainability focusing on connections between natural and human-engineered systems to predict and mitigate the impacts of global environmental change. Students in the lab conduct data-intensive interdisciplinary research, blending laboratory experiments, field observations, and modeling tools to gain basic knowledge of nature and to foster the sustainable use of land, air, and water resources.

Postdoctoral fellows working in the lab are Barbara Bomfim and Toby Maxwell. Graduate students are Adriana Uscanga, Jamie Wright, Mike Farinacci, Ori Chafe, Paulo Quadri, Schyler Reis, and Weicheng Wang. Undergraduate assistants are Aaron LeFore, Alexia Gee, and Braden Prillwitz.
Faculty Highlights

The Department of Geography has welcomed many accomplished new faculty members over the past few years including Leigh Johnson, Lucas Silva, Laura Pulido, and Leslie McLees. As part of a cluster hire in the area of Data Science for Social Equity we are excited to welcome Caroline Fish and Henry Luan to the department this year.

We also had several faculty members win prestigious awards for their research and service this year. Pat McDowell was awarded the Melvin G. Marcus Distinguished Career Award by the American Association of Geographer’s Geomorphology Specialty Group. Laura Pulido was awarded by the American Association of Geographers with the 2018 Harold M. Rose Award for Anti-Racism Research and Practice. Lucas Silva won the highest research award at the University of Oregon for early career faculty—the 2018 UO Outstanding Early Career Award.

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Alexander Murphy
I recently completed the volume on geography for Polity Press’ “Why It Matters” series—a set of books explaining the nature and importance of different disciplines. It is scheduled for a fall 2018 publication with translations into Chinese and Spanish in the works. I continue to be fortunate to travel widely. Last winter I gave a keynote address at a summit in Guangzhou, China, on the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area; April found me in Helsinki for a project meeting of a Finnish Center of Excellence (in an advisory role); and this summer I lectured on National Geographic Society expeditions through parts of Eurasia. I continue to chair the AAG’s Healthy Departments Committee, and have stepped in to cochair the International Geographical Union’s Commission on Political Geography. On campus, I still love teaching classes on political, European, and law-environment themes. I meet weekly with the university president and provost as an elected member of the faculty advisory council (2017–19).

Amy Lobben
I returned to the department this fall after an 18-month sabbatical. During this period, I split my time between advising five PhD students, working on my most recent NSF grant project, and doing construction (I have been meticulously restoring the 1884 American Gothic house that Andrew and I bought two years ago). While not donning my tool belt and using my extensive power tool collection, I have been busy with my students scanning brains and analyzing data.

Carolyn Fish
I had a very exciting and eventful summer. I successfully defended my PhD dissertation in July. I traveled to Melbourne, Australia in August to work with one of my collaborators on a project on the emotional responses people experience when they read maps. I also presented on some of this research at the GIScience conference in Melbourne. In early September, I moved from State College, Pennsylvania to Eugene via a long winding route across the country which took me through 10 states. I’m now excited to explore everything here in the Pacific Northwest and continue my research on the connections between cartography and science communication.

Dan Buck
I spent a sabbatical year in Taiwan researching a book about how the food systems of Asia are changing. I was a visiting scholar at the Institute of Sociology at Academia Sinica, funded by a Taiwan Fellowship from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I have eaten my way through several Asian countries on this project. Now I am back, advising graduate students, taking undergraduates on field trips, and wondering how much I will have to revise the syllabus next time I teach my class about the Chinese economy.

Dan Gavin
Luckily my students provide good reasons to put aside department business at times. Last summer we went to the very remote Abert Rim in eastern Oregon. This fall I took a small group of students to study the paleoenvironment of the Olympic Peninsula. A new project in Indonesia also occasionally let’s me really escape! On campus, planning for the new building keeps us looking forward.

Don Holtgrieve
This summer I spent time hiking and leading tours at Mt. Pisgah, showing newcomers the evolving downtown Eugene landscape, and helping out with projects for the Mackenzie River Trust. I did manage to go to one of my sons’ wedding in Italy where I just had to taste and compare Tuscany wines with Oregon vintages. I’m happy that retirement in Oregon is more than just fishing, attending cultural events, and wildlife viewing. No boredom factor here.
spatio-temporal analysis of HIV/AIDS data at the Pennsylvania Department of Public Health, along with my collaborator from Yale University. I am currently guest editing a special issue “Methodologies and Applications of Geographic Information Science and Spatial Statistical Analysis in Public Health” in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health.

Katie Meehan
As codirector of the Science, Environment, and Society Lab, I (with graduate student research assistant Lourdes Ginart) spent the summer cooking up a Q-method survey for my NSF-sponsored Knowledge Integration Project. The process involved more than 100 notecards with participant quotes, a week holed up in the geography seminar room, and copious amounts of cold brew coffee and Korean food. I also recently launched the Plumbing Poverty Project with PhD student Shiloh Deitz, which investigates the racialized and geographic nature of household water insecurity in the Americas, including its impacts on human health and well-being. Our first article was accepted by the Annals of the American Association of Geographers, the flagship journal of our discipline, in just under six weeks—a new record! A summer highlight for me was Cycle Oregon, a 400-mile, seven-day bicycle ride through the small towns and high desert landscape of Northeast Oregon, including the Wallowas and Blue Mountains.

Laura Pulido
I had one of my greatest teaching experiences ever this past winter. I taught Race, Nature and Power and we did a collaborative research project that compared the racist and environmental deregulatory agendas of the Trump administration’s first year. We found that these two agendas unfolded very differently and that while the racist agenda was very “noisy” and chaotic, the environmental agenda was much smoother, suggesting advance planning. We concluded that the racist agenda, though powerful in its own right, also helped to mask the tremendous environmental deregulation underway.

Leigh Johnson
Since beginning at the UO in 2016, I have continued my long-term research on livestock insurance programs for pastoralists in Kenya, as well as launching a new project. As part of a multi-investigator project on Climate Change and Transformations of Financial Risk, last year I travelled to Kenya and the UK to conduct interviews and participate in workshops related to the government’s Kenya Livestock Insurance Program. I also began studying the African Union’s African Risk Capacity (ARC) facility, querying the reasons why Kenya and several other African countries have pulled out of this multi-nation drought insurance program. This summer I traveled to Germany and Switzerland to interview donors, reinsurers, and international NGOs involved with ARC, and am combing through thousands of pages of ARC documents and country drought management plans with the diligent research assistance of Harley Emery. I have also enjoyed retooling my upper division course Environment and Development to focus more specifically on climate change, inequality, and adaptation.

Lucas Silva
I have had an exciting and productive year. I was awarded two new research grants. One from the National Geographic Explorers for “The climate paradox: mapping resilience and vulnerability of montane forests” and one from the National Science Foundation for “Harnessing biological complexity to improve food security across the Pacific Northwest.”

I recently had a study published in the National Academy of Science that examines shifts in watersheds in response to climate change. This study, in collaboration with Toby Maxwell of the Institute of Ecology and Evolution and Will Horwath of the University of California-Davis, focused on looking at the relationships between tree species and soil properties to understand how water is moving through forest systems.
Faculty Highlights, continued

Mark Fonstad
This past year I was on sabbatical, and enjoying some needed time to explore the Colorado Plateau and do repeat photography of different environmental sites all over that region from Arches to Zion. I also have been working on digitizing the Bill Loy slide collection for eventual online distribution. I’ve continued my work with the NASA SWOT satellite hydrology group, and we have been testing the satellite’s likely river measurement algorithms against our surveys of the Willamette River. In tandem with PhD student Aaron Zettler-Mann’s research, perhaps the main research area I worked on this past year was a series of tests to show how river sediments can be mapped and measured particle-by-particle throughout entire rivers through a combination of boat-based drone photography and image-processing algorithms.

Pat McDowell
I started a new research project this spring, with graduate students Matthew Goslin and Daniel Baldwin. The goal is to evaluate the effectiveness of different land management strategies on improving aquatic habitat; the study site is in the Blue Mountains in northeastern Oregon. Field work was done in June and August, and a crew of three students (Mike Farinacci, Allison Lightfoot, and Josh Di Carlo) came along as field assistants on the August trip. The project is a collaboration with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and researchers at Oregon State and the Columbia River Inter-tribal Fish Commission. It will run for two years and is funded by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

Nick Kohler
I continue to teach a variety of geospatial techniques and other classes in the department, and am developing a new course as a faculty teaching fellow of the Oregon Humanities Center with the Coleman-Guitteau Teaching Professorship for 2018–19. I am excited to be the incoming vice president of the Columbia River region group of the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (CRR-ASPRS).

Patrick Bartlein
I continued my work with various collaborators and former PhD students on paleoclimatic data-model comparisons, the joint application of climate-model simulations and data syntheses aimed at figuring out how well the climate models used to make future projections actually work. (Pretty well, it seems.) After spending the spring quarter in the UK in 2017, I went to Stockholm last October for the kickoff meeting for PMIP4, which is aiming to repeat those analyses for the next set of climate projections. In 2017 I also received the American Quaternary Association (AMQUA) Distinguished Career Award and the AAG 2017 Distinguished Scholar Honors.

Peter Walker
I have spent much of the last two years travelling to the site of the Malheur Wildlife Refuge Occupation, the surrounding communities, and in Portland doing research on a book released this fall called Sage Collaboration: How Harney County Defeated the Takeover of the Malheur Wildlife Refuge. This book documents how the history of collaboration in Harney County helped this community resist the armed militants that put their community on the national stage in the fight over public lands. I have also developed a course based on this work called Oregon Environmental Politics that I will teach for the third time this spring.

Shaul Cohen
This year I continued my research on conflict transformation in Northern Ireland, including a period of fieldwork that was marked by a significant uptick in intercommunal violence there. My work continues to provide support to community organizations and activists who are working to forge a more peaceful future. In the United States my work as director of the UO Prison Education Program and the Carnegie Global Oregon Ethics Program is thriving, and I was asked to make presentations about these projects to the UO Board of Trustees and members of Oregon’s legislature. In spring of 2018 a milestone was reached—for the first time the university awarded bachelor’s degrees to four of my students who earned their diplomas while incarcerated.

Xiaobo Su
Last summer I spent two months in China doing fieldwork. My focus was on home and mobility with a special interest in why people frequently stay in luxury hotels and how they regard those hotels as their home. In 2017 I was awarded the university’s Faculty Research Award for my project “In the Shadow of Cold War: Illicit Drugs and the Entanglement of the United States, China, and Myanmar since 1949.”
The Sandra F. Pritchard Mather Graduate Fund in Geography supports graduate student research.

2018 Award Recipients:
Aaron Zettler-Mann and Sanan Moradi.

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**Student Scholarships and Awards**

**Bill Loy Award for Excellence in Cartographic Design and Geographic Visualization**

The Bill Loy Award for Excellence in Cartography is given annually to a graduate or undergraduate geography student at the University of Oregon for maps demonstrating a high proficiency in the application of the principles of cartographic design.

**2018 Award Recipients**

- Lourdes Ginart: Eugene Has a Crude Problem (above left)
- Josie Imrie: Aotearoa: Land of the Long White Cloud (above center)
- Justin Menke: Visitor Photographs in Photogenic Yellowstone National Park (above right)
- **Honorable Mention**
- Syler Behrens: Hydrology of the Peace-Athabasca Delta

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**Trussell Family Scholarship**

The Trussell Family Scholarship is awarded to students based on academic merit and interest in a career serving humanity. Consideration is also given to financial need.

**2018 Award Recipients**

- Theodore Narrett Lessman for his project “IllumiCloud: Citizen Science App for Mapping Illuminance” and Briana Kendrick for her research project “Water Levels in Ancient Lake Chewaucan.”

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**The Irwin and Renee Holzman Family Scholarship**

The Irwin and Renee Holzman Family Scholarship is given to geography majors who exhibit academic excellence and who provide outstanding contributions to the department community. Students are nominated by and voted upon by the faculty. This year’s award recipient is Keene Michael Corbin, who graduated in winter 2018.

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**Sandra F. Pritchard Mather Graduate Fund in Geography**

The Sandra F. Pritchard Mather Graduate Fund in Geography supports graduate student research.

2018 Award Recipients: Aaron Zettler-Mann and Sanan Moradi.
Student Profiles

Our students have been busy pursuing a variety of research projects. Here are just a few.

Undergraduate Students

**Lodan Donahue**
I am currently double-majoring in SDST and geography with a minor in computer science. This decision was easy once I realized the growing relevance of trade crafts enabled by geospatial data science like remote sensing, imagery analysis, and cartography. The specificity of my degree allowed me to land an internship at the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency after my freshman year and I’ve been invited back next year!

**Sara Fatima**
I am a senior majoring in geography and international studies. I recently attended the International Conference on Sustainable Development hosted by Jeffrey Sachs and the Sustainable Solutions Development Network where I shared a poster on my senior thesis: Climate Migration in Afghanistan.

At the conference, government officials, development practitioners, academics, and policy makers discussed the progress being made towards achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. This conference was eye opening in the sense that there is so much work that needs to be done.

**Ashley Jackson**
In addition to taking classes, I am working as a legal assistant. This role entails supporting the appellate attorneys who represent our clients to the Social Security Administration and the US District Court. As a Spatial Data Science and Technology major, I use my geographic knowledge daily, for example, determining the correct court or agency office for each client based on their address. I did not think I would end up in the legal field by pursuing a geography degree but I know that the computer science training and spatial understanding of Oregon are skills I use every day.

Graduate Students

**Olivia Molden**
My research centers on water insecurity in Kathmandu, Nepal. Despite a large water infrastructure project, referred to as Melamchi, and 20 years of promises, people in the city continue to have to worry about water quality, quantity, storage, cost, and ease of access. In order to understand how people experience and address these insecurities in their everyday lives, I developed a process of story mapping. To make story maps, my research assistant, Nita, and I met with the women, and sometimes, men, in charge of securing water for their families who helped us build a visual narrative of their water practices and stories over time and space.

Over the course of my Fulbright Hays fellowship in 2017, we conducted almost 200 interviews with 47 families. We met with household managers, members of community clubs that distribute water from tankers, migrants, guest house owners, residents, business owners, and more. Story mapping involved integrated quotes and photographs from the participants themselves. It was through frequent interaction and reflection on their story maps that we could start to understand the ways people make sense of constant change and address uncertainties in not just water access, but the urban landscape more broadly. In these narratives, the promises of Melamchi were also central, but told through a strange mix of hope, fatalism, and mystery. See story maps at oliviacm.com.

**Yi Yu**
Last year, I did six months of fieldwork in Beijing and Shanghai. I visited some community eldercare centers that provide daycare services, in-home services, and institutional care. For those providing daycare services, the older adults attend the care facility during the daytime to participate in activities, such as singing, dancing, and playing cards. These kinds of activities are designed to keep the older adults involved.

A tanker fills the community water system in Chyasalthe, Kathmandu, during the dry season.

Community eldercare center in Shanghai.

geography.uoregon.edu
and maintain a busy life even after retirement. Another essential service these eldercare centers provide is in-home care. Professional caregivers deliver care at the older adult’s private home. By following the caregivers to individual homes, I learned their working content, working schedule, and working condition.

Most importantly, I got more understanding on the relationship between caregivers and care receivers. The last service that these eldercare facilities provide is institutional care. The older adults could live in the care facilities for up to six months. Such institutional care is also called respite care. It mainly admits older adults whose family members are on vacation, or who need special care after surgeries. This respite care aims at providing temporary care. But the older adults will still rely on their family in the end.

Aaron Zettler-Mann
This summer I finished field work on the Rogue River in southern Oregon, completing nearly 100 miles of high resolution river surveys, including using an echo sounder to measure depths. At each exposed gravel bar, undergraduates James Major and Josh Spector and I photographed the gravel bar using an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). This research provides enhanced understanding of the natural and human processes that control rivers or streams. I have also taken the lead on teaching our Mapping and Drones course. I designed this course to offer basic and applied understanding of the diversity of applications of UAVs, what it means to produce maps, implement structure-from-motion (SfM) using established best-practices, and UAV flight planning and execution. The class had weekly practice flying UAVs in controlled environments, creating flight plans, and using SfM to process their data. The students collaborated with the Long Tom Watershed Council and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to remap a restoration project at the Coyote Creek wet meadow.

Incoming Graduate Students

Adam Morse (PhD)
I plan to work with Shaul Cohen to understand how prisoners organize social movements within carceral space with particular emphasis on prison labor strikes. I am originally from New England and have spent the past few years teaching at the community college level in Massachusetts. I hold an MA in geography from the University of Oregon.

Anudeep Dewan (MS) I am pursuing a dual-masters in geography and Asian studies. I did fieldwork this summer in Darjeeling, a hill station in the north eastern side of India that produces the famous Darjeeling Tea. My research questions the brand of Darjeeling tea and the commodification of the place and people, with the wave of the organic movement and the presence of social movements like fair trade in India.

Bianca Malkov (MS)
After graduating from UCLA, I traveled to Botswana for field work and stayed to backpack in South Africa and Zimbabwe. I returned from a three month trip to southeast Asia. For the past years I have worked for different organizations preventing violence in marginalized communities of color.

Carla Osorio Veliz (PhD) I am interested in human geography, critical refugee studies, political economy, and spatial justice. I am currently working on a chapter about gentrification in Boyle Heights and South Central-Los Angeles. For the past years I have worked for different organizations preventing violence in marginalized communities of color.

David Bachrach (MS) After graduating from American University with a degree in International Studies that specialized in environmental sustainability, international development and China, I spent a semester interning at the China Environment Forum, which is a program within the Woodrow Wilson Center. My research project will aim to combine interests in political ecology, economic geography, and China.

Mike Farinacci (MS)
I am from Ohio where I graduated from the geography department at Kent State University. My interests include forest ecohydrology, climate change, landscape ecology, and watershed science. I plan to work with Lucas Silva using tree cores, either tying their chronology to a flood history of the Willamette Valley, or meteorological/stream data from the HJ Andrews Experimental Forest. I previously worked as a field specialist for an environmental consulting firm performing air quality monitoring and recently returned from a three month trip to southeast Asia.

Riley Anderson (MS)
I am interested in biogeography, remote sensing, landscape ecology, conservation GIS, habitat mapping, and demography. At the UO I am interested in using geospatial techniques to understand invasive plants and animals in riparian habitats. I just completed my BA in geography with an emphasis on geographic information science and a minor in Spanish at UC Santa Barbara.
Drones Come to Geography

In 2016 we brought drones to the department! Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) represent a new exciting technology which has already expanded our ability to view, map, and examine our world. Our course, Mapping and Drones, is designed to give students a basic understanding of what it means to produce maps, implement photogrammetry using established best-practices, and plan and execute UAV flights. This class takes a strong “applied” approach to mapping and UAVs, pushing students to think critically about what they produce—particularly regarding the relationship between data production and quality. Of course, getting permission to fly on campus and licensing for instructors has been a huge effort, but thanks to Aaron Zettler-Mann and Dr. Mark Fonstad for keeping this program going!

Geography Club

The student Geography Club organized several fun activities this year. They started with club president Keen Corbin solidifying the groups association with YouthMappers, a humanitarian mapping organization affiliated with the US Agency for International Development (USAID). Youthmappers allows our students to organize Mapathons, events where anyone, regardless of mapping background, can help digitize infrastructure for projects around the world funded by USAID. Mapathons this year included mapping for sea level rise in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. These events are very successful in drawing in non-geography students and getting them interested in mapping and geography!

Geography Club students also went to Guy Lee Elementary and taught some basic mapping and spatial concepts to three kindergarten classes! Students practiced orienting themselves, then they made a map of their classroom and a map of a path from their classroom to the lunch room. The day was very fun and a huge success! At the end of the year, the new club president Greg Fitzgerald helped organize several students and faculty for a hike to the Blue Pool on McKenzie Highway. It was a fabulous way to get out and enjoy some nature at the end of the year!
Degrees Awarded

Doctor of Philosophy

Jean Baptiste Faye  
Environmental Studies, Science, and Policy  
Focal Department: Geography  
Dissertation: Farming and Meaning at the Desert’s Edge: Can Serer Indigenous Agricultural and Cultural Systems Co-Evolve towards Sustainability?  
Co-Advisor: Peter Walker  
Co-Advisor: Dennis Galvan

Zackery Ryan Thill  
Dissertation: Rights Holders, Stakeholders, and Scientists: A Political Ecology of Ambient Environmental Monitoring in Alberta, Canada  
Advisor: Shaul Cohen

Kuan-Chi Wang  
Dissertation: Border Assemblages: The Political Economy of Asian Regional Vegetable Trade  
Advisor: Daniel Buck

Master of Science

Katherine Rose Hayes  
Thesis: Fire and Carbon Cycling in Old Growth Redwood Forests Across the Late Holocene  
Advisor: Daniel Gavin

Bachelor’s

Geography  
Jeffrey Phillip Anderson  
Kira Alexandra Bartlett  
Hayley Noelle Branaugh  
Nicholas Alexander Brown  
Austin James Butler  
Dana Michelle Camin  
Melissa Leilani Campolo  
Keene Michael Corbin  
Madeline Josie Cowen  
Mariah Elizabeth Crowley  
Emily Dewar  
Zane Andrew Eddy  
Brendon Michael Ford  
Kathi Rae Graue  
Kyle James Hendricks  
Derek Samuel Hix  
Josie Lee Imrie  
Lin ChunWu Kusnerus  
Rowan Gwyneth Laidlaw  
Conner Joseph LeBrun  
Annabelle Lind  
Conner Ray Matthews  
Kymberlee Michelle Meyers  
Annaliese Renate Mueller  
Emily Nguyen  
William Dennis Olson  
Aolani Aki Onatah  
Jessica Noel Parker  
Derek Jay Robinson  
Jacob Henry Roehl  
Duc Minh Sam  
John Edward Scandura  
Trevor Jacob Shott  
Christopher Cole M. Wunnicke  
Jason Aaron Wilcox

Spatial Data Science and Technology  
Austin Michael Butler  
Josie Lee Imrie  
Ashley Jean Jackson  
Theodore Narrett Lessman  
Robert Allen Nichols  
Alec J. Savoy

Career Development Outreach  
Continued from page 1

members!) do not always realize courses actually do teach important job skills. Leslie McLees, who developed and teaches the course, tries to get students to think beyond individual courses, and instead focus on how they have learned to apply and utilize knowledge. Students usually come into this course very uncertain, but have many tangible skills by the time they leave. Several students have landed jobs or internships directly from work they completed in the course.

Other efforts spearheaded by McLees include holding alumni workshops to allow students to meet people who have geography degrees and who have succeeded beyond college. This helps develop a strong community within and beyond the department, and provides students with the confidence that they, too, can succeed with a geography degree.

One of the secrets of a liberal arts education is often revealed in these discussions: your major does not really matter! What matters is having a college degree and developing transferable skills and the ability to articulate them beyond an individual course. And these skills are developed more completely when studying something you are interested in. And who isn’t interested in geography?
New Degrees, Specialties

Spatial Data Science and Technology
In the fall of 2017, the department launched a new major: Spatial Data Science and Technology (SDST). This major helps students develop their critical thinking, problem-solving, and technical skills for the booming geospatial technology industry and beyond. Students take courses in location-aware systems, big data, computer programming, web mapping, GIS, remote sensing, and cartography. When developing the major, GIScience faculty met with industry professionals to understand what the biggest needs are in the industry, which helped shape the structure of and offerings in the major. These professionals not only emphasized technical skills, but the need to have students who can understand and think creatively about the complex problems that technology can both cause and address, and that the energy that these critical thinkers can provide will help the next generation of GIScience application.

Thirty-one students signed up for the major in its first year, and more signed up this fall. Many students come looking for a more real-world application of their computer science skills. Others found SDST because as the use of GIS and spatial data is more mainstreamed and integrated into our daily lives, they want to be both working on cutting edge technology and finding ways to use that technology to solve pressing social and environmental issues. This past summer we graduated our first six students! Both current and graduating students have pursued jobs and internships at diverse places such as local law offices, ESRI, the City of Eugene, and the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency. SDST has also been popular as a second major for geography majors, providing depth in GIScience while providing the broad-based approach to understanding the different systems that shape our planet.

Water Science and Policy
In the fall of 2018 the geography major added a new concentration called Water Science and Policy, reflecting our breadth of research and teaching in these subjects, from hydrology to geomorphology to international water policy. Students increasingly recognize water as a universal human need, and the politics and ecologies of management will be at the forefront of the international agenda in the 21st Century. New and innovative research examining river dynamics, land management systems, invasive species, impacts of climate change, hydropolitics, and more is reflected in our courses and faculty research. While this concentration has more limited course options, students have shown an eager interest in being able to combine both political ecology and biophysical geography approaches to understanding water dynamics around the world.
Summer Academy to Inspire Learning

In the summer of 2018, geography hosted its first Summer Academy to Inspire Learning (SAIL) program. The SAIL program serves middle and high school students from the southern Willamette Valley who come from underrepresented backgrounds such as lower income and/or first generation students. The program encourages students to enroll and succeed in college by exposing them to fun and innovative programming through different units on campus.

Our undergraduate coordinator, Leslie McLees, organized a weeklong series of interactive activities for students entering their junior and senior years of high school. Students reflected on how we tell stories about places and how that in turn affects how we treat the people who live there. They made maps in Carto with Joanna Merson and participated in a humanitarian mapathon—digitizing infrastructure in Sri Lanka for a project about adaptation to climate change, with Geography Club president Greg Fitzgerald. They used the GPS apps on their phones to do some orienteering and explore human-environment dynamics on our campus. They spent time near the Autzen footbridge with lecturer Johnny Webb to measure stream flow and understand the water cycle. The week ended with a discussion with Leslie McLees on the purpose of college, how to understand the purpose of college, and ways to think about how to make it successful for individuals. Several students helped throughout the week, including Bernard Cowen, Zane Eddy, Annabelle Lind, Kate Shields, and Chris Tello. Thanks to all of them for making the week possible!

Despite temperatures above 90 degrees the entire week, it was an amazing success. Students were highly engaged and active throughout all of the activities, and appreciate that they got to see and experience some of the variety of what geography can do. And of course, all were surprised at the breadth of the discipline. Several students remarked that they were so happy they had discovered geography, and hoped to study it in college. We look forward to having some of them in our classes in a couple of years! Learn more at sail.uoregon.edu.