

# The Graticule Weekly

UGA Geography's Weekly Newsletter



## ADVISOR SPOTLIGHT

### Undergraduate Advisor Ryan Smith wins Outstanding New Advisor Award



Ryan Smith has been named the recipient of this year's Outstanding New Advisor award. Smith advises more than 200 students seeking degrees in the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences. He advises students seeking degrees in geography, interdisciplinary art, and art with areas of emphasis in interior design, photography, and printmaking. Smith began advising at UGA in September 2021.

"His thoughtfulness, reliability, and integrity have gained the trust of his students and colleagues alike," said Diane Miller, director of student academic services for Franklin College. "From the moment Ryan stepped into the role of department advisor for the Geography Department, his impact has been nothing short of transformative, not just for the students he advises but for his colleagues and the department as a whole," said Kajal Patel, academic advisor for Grady College of Journalism & Mass Communication.

Smith's advising philosophy is to be authentic and approachable, to always encourage, and to learn from his students. Smith's colleagues describe him as being selflessly committed to his students and willingly extending a helping hand. He is described as going above and beyond in his role as an academic advisor.

[Read the full article about Ryan Smith's Outstanding New Advisor Award here!](#)

## DR. GENGCHEN MAI RECIEVES MICROSOFT RESEARCH GRANT

UGA Department of Geography professor Gengchen Mai has been named recipient of a new research grant from Microsoft Research's Accelerate Foundation Models Academic Research (AFMR) Initiative. The grant gives Dr. Mai Microsoft AZure credits which he can use on OpenAI foundation models such as GPT-4, ChatGPT, among others. Dr. Mai is currently collaborating with Microsoft Research (MSR) researchers with the goal of delivering fruitful research outcomes on Geo-foundation models.



[Learn more about Microsoft Research's Accelerate Foundation Models Academic Research \(AFMR\) Initiative here!](#)

## General News and Announcements



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[Past editions of The Graticule Weekly are available to view on our website!](#)



*With the Spring semester in full swing, our community remains busy as faculty, staff, students, and visitors navigate our campus. Prioritize your transportation safety and the safety of other's by checking out [the Watch For Dawgs official website.](#)*



*Please download the new UGA Safe app from the Google Play or Apple App stores. Login using your UGA MyID or register as a guest to take advantage of a variety of safety features. For more information, please visit the [UGA Office of Emergency Preparedness website.](#)*

Follow us on social media!



# NEXT WEEK'S UGRD GRADUATION CELEBRATION

Join us at our upcoming Undergraduate Graduation Celebration! Can't make it person? [Join our Zoom livestream here](#) or [scan the QR code below](#).



## UPCOMING DEFENSES



Kayla Edgett - Oral Comprehensive Examination  
9:30am, May 9th, 2024,  
GEOG Room 147



Jay Atkins - Dissertation Proposal Defense  
12:00pm, May 13th, 2024,  
GEOG Room 147



Zane Frentress - Thesis Proposal Defense  
2:00pm, May 15th, 2024,  
GEOG Room 147

## FROM THE GEOGRAPHY MAIN OFFICE

Need a job this Fall? The Geography office is hiring new Federal Work/Study student workers! Duties to include assisting Communications Coordinator and includes some front desk coverage, helping with occasional events, and light clerical duties. Scan the QR code to the right for more information!



Missing something? The Geography Department's lost and found is located in the staff offices on the second floor of the building. Please be prepared to describe your lost item so that we can ensure we're returning items to their rightful owners. Current found items include keys, glasses, and earbuds,



## Commencement Events



**Spring 2024** May 10th  
**Undergraduate** 7:30 pm  
**Commencement** Sanford Stadium  
FYI: [Tickets are required](#) for all graduates at the May 10 Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony to sit on Dooley Field.



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# STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

## ★ This Week's Featured Opportunity ★

### • [Paid Summer Research Opportunity](#)

*The project will provide climate risk information to underserved Georgia communities and offer guidance and resources for planning decisions to enhance climate resilience. Over the summer, we will conduct a case study working with municipal planners and environmental justice leaders in Augusta (and perhaps one more location) to initiate the process of building climate resilience and trust-based partnerships at the local level.*

*The student would primarily work with Dr. Yager in Marine Sciences and Dr. Harper in Geography to analyze county-level climate data from the Fifth National Climate Assessment (<https://atlas.globalchange.gov/>). This part-time, paid position starts on or after May 13 and lasts for approximately 2 months. Experience with GIS software, R, or Python is essential. We seek a motivated individual who has the potential to work independently to analyze and visualize the data, and who can attend project meetings and share their findings. An upper level undergraduate or graduate student is preferred. Please contact Dr. Harper for more information: [a.harper@uga.edu](mailto:a.harper@uga.edu).*

### • [Equal Education for Athens \(EEA\) Virtual Volunteer Opportunity](#)

*Equal Education for Athens (EEA) is recruiting UGA students to volunteer as tutors for primary and secondary students from Athens-Clarke County. We were once a student-run UGA organization that provided free, online tutoring to K-12 students in need across Athens Clarke County schools. Now, we are reaching out as a community partner of a local nonprofit in search of student tutors!*

*Tutoring through EEA is a very rewarding program that not only allows you to make a difference in the lives of children in your community, but also to develop an impactful mentor-mentee relationship. We must unite to work towards establishing equal education in the Athens community! (Plus, you will be able to earn community service hours, and add to your resumes and graduate school applications 😊)*

*Please click on this [link](#) to apply! EEA will operate on a first come, first serve basis with orientation sessions for fall tutoring beginning the week of August 19th. (\$500 stipend for 30 hours of work over the summer semester. Flexible schedule.)*

### • [Georgia Geospatial Association \(GGA\) Virtual Map Competition](#)

*The Georgia Geospatial Association (GGA) is excited to announce the 2024 Virtual Map Competition for university students. Students will be able to submit a map and/or project poster for a chance to win prizes and to opportunity to present their work at a GGA Lunch & Learn. Additionally, all submissions will be displayed on our 2024 Map Gallery after the submission deadline. The submission form is now open (April 19th) and will close on May 19th. Link to the submission form and GGA student page are included below. Winners will be announced on June 3rd. Please share this email with any interested students.*

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Follow us on social media!



# STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

- [StoryMapping\\_Queer Climate Justice](#)

*Undergraduate research opportunity to work on a Community Geography project with the Astraea Foundation, an LGBTQ+ philanthropy non-profit, to create a "StoryMap" of the first cohort of their Queer Climate Justice grant fund. This includes working collaboratively with grantees to craft a visual narrative representing their work and then using the tools of ArcGIS online to "put it on the map" alongside climate vulnerability indicators. The project aims to help Astraea raise additional funds for this program and uplift the climate experiences of LGBTQ+ people and uplift their leadership in climate justice. \$500 stipend for 30 hours of work over the summer semester. Flexible schedule.*

*Ideal candidates are bilingual in Spanish and have former experience with ArcGIS StoryMaps or other ESRI software. To apply, email [vanessa.raditz@out4s.org](mailto:vanessa.raditz@out4s.org) describing why you are interested in the project and the relevant background or skills you would bring to the position.*

- [Shell to Shore's Birkley Heynen Internship Program](#)

***Shell to Shore** is an oyster recycling program based in Athens. They are transporting discarded oyster shells from inland tables to the shore. Their goal is to connect this natural resource to restoration projects on the Georgia coast. First, they are diverting shells from the landfill. Then, they cure the shell in Athens. Last, they are transporting the shell to the shore at Sapelo Island to be used in efforts to build coastal resilience in partnership with folks at [Save Our Legacy Ourself \(S.O.L.O.\)](#) on Sapelo Island.*

*The main responsibilities during the internship include assisting with collecting oyster shells from restaurants weekly in Athens, Augusta and Atlanta as well as helping expand the network of restaurants they work with. Additionally, interns will learn about oyster culture, help expand educational capacity as well as assist finding new sources of funding to expand the project among other opportunities. Financial support for these internships has been made available by [UGA's Office of Sustainability](#), [UGA's Willson Center](#), [UGA's Odum School of Ecology](#) and [The Birkley Heynen Environmental Foundation](#).*

*In addition to being paid, internships can be taken for academic credit either in Geography (GEOG 3990; This program is a service-learning Domestic Field Study course in which students will conduct field and academic research at UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant facilities to write stories about the people and aquaculture of the Georgia coast. A week-long residency at the Penn Center on St. Helena Island, SC will provide students with an immersive learning experience in the Gullah Geechee culture of the Sea Islands as the starting point for our field work. Contact Dr. Elizabeth Davis at [eadavis@uga.edu](mailto:eadavis@uga.edu)) or Ecology (ECOL 4940; This program is a service-learning Domestic Field Study course in which students will conduct field and academic research at UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant facilities to write stories about the people and aquaculture of the Georgia coast. A week-long residency at the Penn Center on St. Helena Island, SC will provide students with an immersive learning experience in the Gullah Geechee culture of the Sea Islands as the starting point for our field work. Contact Dr. Elizabeth Davis at [eadavis@uga.edu](mailto:eadavis@uga.edu))*

*Interns will have opportunities to travel to Sapelo Island on the Georgia Coast to work with coastal partners.*

*For more background information please see the [Shell to Shore website](#) and their Instagram: [@shell\\_to\\_shore](#)*

*Please reach out to Nik Heynen ([nheynen@uga.edu](mailto:nheynen@uga.edu)) directly if you have any questions and/or are interested in applying for an internship.*

## Social Media

*Want to stay up to date with all things UGA Geography? Follow us on our social media accounts. If you have any events, news, awards, or other information you'd like to share on our social media, please reach out to Matt Colonius.*



<https://www.facebook.com/GeographyDepartmentUGA/>



<https://www.instagram.com/geographyuga/>



<https://twitter.com/UGaGeography>



<https://geography.uga.edu>

# STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

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The last Mappy Hour for the spring semester will be held on April 24th from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. This meeting will be held virtually, link to the meet information page is included below. Mappy Hour is a place for students and professionals to have casual conversations about geospatial field. This month, we will have a presentation by Tyler Nuttall from Esri. If you have any questions about the Virtual Map Competition or Mappy Hour, reach out to [education@geospatial.org](mailto:education@geospatial.org).

## • [Maymester Field Study Service-Learning Opportunity](#)

This program is a service-learning Domestic Field Study course in which students will conduct field and academic research at UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant facilities to write stories about the people and aquaculture of the Georgia coast. A week-long residency at the Penn Center on St. Helena Island, SC will provide students with an immersive learning experience in the Gullah Geechee culture of the Sea Islands as the starting point for our field work. Contact Dr. Elizabeth Davis at [eadavis@uga.edu](mailto:eadavis@uga.edu)

**MAYMESTER 2024**  
**WRITING & COMMUNITY @THE GEORGIA COAST**

Find your stories here! Join us for a writing journey like no other to learn about Georgia's historic and one-of-a-kind coastal culture.

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS  
@STUDYAWAY.UGA.EDU

CONTACT ME FOR MORE INFO:  
DR. ELIZABETH DAVIS, PROGRAM DIRECTOR  
EADAVIS@UGA.EDU

**ABOUT THE PROGRAM**

In Maymester 2024, ENGL 3850S: Writing and Community, will partner with the University of Georgia's Marine Extension to research and write texts that tell the stories of people and seafood along the Georgia coast and Sea Islands. A week-long residency at the Penn Center on St. Helena Island, SC will provide students with an immersive learning experience in the Gullah-Geechee culture of the Sea Islands as the starting point for our field work.

**FIELD SITES:**

- Penn Center, St. Helena Island, SC
- UGA Marine Education Center, Skidaway Island, GA
- UGA Marine Institute, Sapelo Island, GA
- UGA Marine Extension Field Offices, Brunswick, GA

**APPLY TODAY!**  
[studyaway.uga.edu](http://studyaway.uga.edu)

**EL SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!**  
[el.uga.edu](http://el.uga.edu)

## • [Nelson/Nygaard Transportation Planning Summer 2024 Internships](#)

Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates is seeking Transportation Planning Interns to join our team during the summer of 2024. We're looking for students who are eager to gain hands-on experience in the transportation planning field. This is an outstanding opportunity to be involved in the firm's nationally recognized work in planning for more equitable and livable communities.

Our summer intern program is designed to give current students an opportunity to gain experience with planning work that helps shape our communities. You will work on and produce deliverables for some of our most exciting projects, supporting junior and senior planners with writing and research, data analysis and mapping, and client and community engagement activities. [Learn more here!](#)

## Social Media

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<https://www.facebook.com/GeographyDepartmentUGA/>



<https://www.instagram.com/geographyuga/>



[https://twitter.com/UGA\\_Geography](https://twitter.com/UGA_Geography)



<https://geography.uga.edu>

# STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

- [Human Geography Visiting Faculty at Old Dominion](#)

*The Department of Political Science and Geography at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia is looking to hire a one-year visiting faculty position in human geography for the 2024-5 academic year.*

*The teach load for this position is 4 courses per semester and is a mix of face-to-face and online delivery modes. In the Fall, the successful candidate will teach three sections of Introduction to Human Geography and one section of a Junior-level World Resources class. Spring courses will include multiple sections of Introduction to Human Geography and an upper-level undergraduate class. It is required that the successful candidate has earned, at minimum, a Master's degree in Geography.*

*To apply, please submit via email a letter of application, CV, a statement of teaching philosophy, and evidence, if applicable, of prior teaching experience to Dr. Jonathan Leib, Professor of Geography and Chair, Department of Political Science and Geography at [jleib@odu.edu](mailto:jleib@odu.edu)*

*The position is open until filled. For more information or questions, please contact Dr. Leib at [jleib@odu.edu](mailto:jleib@odu.edu).*

Recent Ph.D.s, ABDs, or Masters degree holders with some teaching or teaching assistant experience are encouraged to apply.

- [Human Geography Lecturer at UNT](#)

*The Department of Geography and the Environment at the University of North Texas (UNT) is seeking a lecturer with expertise in human geography starting Fall 2024 for a two-year appointment with the possibility of renewal. We seek candidates who have an MS or PhD in geography, or an advanced degree in a related field. Candidates should show evidence of successful teaching in areas of human geography and geographic techniques, such as Global Societies (or World Regional Geography), one or more specialties (such as political, urban, medical, economic, resource, sustainability, or another area of human geography), and one or more technical courses (such as Introduction to GIS, Quantitative Methods, Qualitative Methods, Field Methods, or another techniques course). The successful applicant should be able to teach introductory human geography courses using engaging pedagogy. The teaching load will be 3 to 4 courses per semester.*

*The Department of Geography and the Environment at the University of North Texas (UNT) offers BA/BS and M.S. degrees in Geography, a newly created BS degree in Geographic Information System and Computer Science (GIS+CS), and undergraduate/graduate certificates in GIS, Sustainability, and other areas. The department won the AAG's prestigious Master's Program Excellence Award in 2017. We also work with the Environmental Science Ph.D. Program and the Department of Philosophy Ph.D. program's concentration in human geography. Additional information about the department is available at <http://geography.unt.edu/>.*

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### GET HELP

Whether it's a life-threatening emergency, a non-emergency concern, or a crime tip; there are several options to relay those concerns.

### MOBILE BLUELIGHT

Immediately call the UGA Police and share your location in real-time with them.

### FRIEND WALK

Send your location in real-time to a friend so they can watch you as you walk to your destination.

### CHAT WITH UGA POLICE

Report a concern by texting with UGA Police.

### HOW TO RESPOND TO AN EMERGENCY

Conveniently located in one place to help you take immediate action.



**DOWNLOAD THE APP!**

[t.uga.edu/7Xf](https://t.uga.edu/7Xf)

