FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Gengchen Mai Awarded 2023 AAG Nystrom Award

We are thrilled to announce that UGA Geography Professor, Dr. Gengchen Mai, has been awarded the 2023 AAG Nystrom award for his research: "Towards general-purpose representation learning of polygonal geometries." In 2022, Dr. Mai was honored with another AAG award, The William L. Garrison Award for Best Dissertation in Computational Geography for his dissertation, “Geographic Question Answering with Spatially-Explicit Machine Learning Models.”

The Nystrom Award was established in 1980 by former AAG executive director J. Warren Nystrom to support an annual prize for the most outstanding paper based on a recent dissertation in geography within a three-year period. Congratulations, Dr. Mai!

Learn more about Dr. Mai’s work [here](#) and consider taking one of his upcoming Fall 2023 courses!

UPCOMING DEFENSES

**Fri 4/28**

Alison Banks- Oral Comprehensive Examination
April 28, 2023

**Mon 5/8**

Akanksha Sharma- Oral Comprehensive Exam
"Examining Geo-Socio-Ecological Vulnerabilities & Transformations in Eastern India"
May 8, 2023
UPCOMING EVENTS

**Fri. 5/5**
Friday, May 5th
12-3 pm
Athens Public Library

Join us for presentations from students in the Community GIS class at UGA, hosted by the Athens Housing Advocacy Team. Free lunch for the first 50 people, local housing resources, free "know your renter’s rights" workshop.

**Thurs. 5/11**
Thursday, May 11th
3:30 pm
GEOG Room 200C

Join us in celebrating our 2023 Geography graduates. Reserve your tickets here! Please note that tickets are currently limited to 2/graduate. On May 1st, we’ll increase this cap to 4 tickets/graduate.

**5/15-5/17**
May 15-17
Georgia Center for Continuing Education & Hotel

The 2023 Georgia Climate Conference aims to support and accelerate Georgia’s efforts to take practical steps to minimize the risks and maximize the opportunities associated with a changing climate.

**Wed.**
Every other Wed.
MLC 247
6pm

APIDAPA, Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Political Alliance, is a newly formed non-partisan student-led organization at UGA that seeks to promote civic engagement, community education, and policy advocacy among APIDA students on campus.

Departmental Events:

**Course Evaluations**
April 21-
Evaluations
May 15
Available Now

Click here to complete your Spring 2023 Course Evaluations!
Student feedback on instructional effectiveness is an important tool. Your comments are appreciated!

**Final Friday Coffee Break**
April 28th
Main Geography Office

Join us on the final Friday of each month for coffee and other refreshments in the main Geography office. This is a great opportunity to catch up with friends/colleagues!

**GEOG UGDR Graduation Celebration**
May 11th
Graduation
3:30pm
Celebration
Room 200C

Join us in celebrating our 2023 Geography graduates. Reserve your tickets here! Please note that tickets are currently limited to 2/graduate. On May 1st, we’ll increase this cap to 4 tickets/graduate.
**OPPORTUNITIES AROUND CAMPUS**

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**Spring 2023 Course Evaluations**

Available  
April 21 - May 14

Please follow these five simple steps to completing your course evaluation:
1. Scan the QR to the right
2. Login using your UGA MyID and password. Your identity will not be associated with your responses.
3. Select the course/instructor to evaluate. Evaluations must be completed for each course listed.
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to complete your evaluation. Unless otherwise specified, responses are required to all questions. You may enter “No Comment” or “NC” in the short answer section if you wish.
5. Click the Enter Evaluation button to submit your evaluation. Once you submit, you will not be able to make changes. If you need to complete evaluations for additional courses, return to Step 3.

**Course Evaluations Site:**

Student feedback on instructional effectiveness is an important tool. Your comments are appreciated!

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**THE UGA GREEN LABS PROGRAM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UGA UTILITY & ENERGY MANAGEMENT INVITES YOU TO**

**JOIN THE 2023 INTERNATIONAL LABORATORY FREEZER CHALLENGE**

**WIN A NEW ULTRA–LOW FREEZER FOR YOUR LAB!**

The Freezer Challenge is a global competition designed to promote best practices in cold storage management for freezers, refrigerators, and cold rooms.

Join the competition and gain credit for any action taken now through July 1, 2023!

For assistance, contact anna.lentz@uga.edu

UGA Green Labs | greentlab.uga.edu

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**Flu shots are available now at UHC!**

If you do not have insurance, payment can be made by cash, check, or card at the cashier’s desk following the flu shot. Students may pay online or you may visit your local Health Department.

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**Pride Center:**

Let’s Talk

All Tuesdays  
10:30am–12:30pm

UGA Pride Center

Let’s Talk is a drop-in service hosted by Counseling & Psychiatric Services (CAPS) clinicians that offers informal, confidential consultation.

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**Volunteers Wanted**

Fresh Express is a new student-led emergency food assistance program, striving to serve University of Georgia students with balanced meals. Sign up here.

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**International Coffee Hour**

Join us every Friday for International Coffee Hour from 11:30am to 1:00pm in Memorial Hall Ballroom! 11:30am - 1:00pm | Memorial Hall Ballroom

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**Anxiety Management Workshop**

April 26th

11am–12pm

Online

Join us for this four-part rotating series on managing stress & anxiety. You will learn how to identify your own stress and anxiety as it arises, and explore some early warning signs, triggers, and ways of coping.
STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

- **Shell to Shore Internship Opportunities**
  Shell to Shore is an oyster recycling program based in Athens. They are transporting oyster shells from inland tables to the shore. Their goal is to connect this natural resource to restoration projects on the Georgia coast.

  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.

  Internships can be taken for academic credit with me (through GEOG 3990; see link for internship policy: https://geography.uga.edu/internships).
  Please reach out to Dr. Nik Heyen (nheyen@uga.edu) directly if you have any questions and/or are interested in applying for an internship.

- **GIS Transportation Intern- NEGRC**
  The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC) is seeking a qualified GIS (Geographic Information System) Transportation Intern within its Planning & Government Services (PGS) Division. The GIS Transportation Intern will assist PGS staff with GIS work related to transportation infrastructure mapping in the Northeast Georgia region through the Roadway Element Validation and Mapping Program (REVAMP) and other general planning related activities. Responsibilities will include data validation, capture, and creation, as well as the development of maps and graphics. This position will primarily involve in-office work, with flexible scheduling to accommodate academic schedules as appropriate. [Learn more here](#) or submit resume and cover letter abailey@negrc.org to apply.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

- **Postdoctoral Opportunity: Remote Sensing Of Agricultural Systems**
  The Center for Geospatial Research at the Department of Geography and the Department of Statistics at the University of Georgia, in collaboration with the USDA-Agricultural Research Service, are seeking a Postdoctoral Associate to investigate relationships between plant biometrics collected in the field and plant descriptors derived from drone-based remote sensing. The selected candidate will join a team of researchers and will collect, assemble and analyze geospatial datasets including direct field measurements and remotely-sensed observations of plot and field areas in support of long-term agroecosystem research.

  The successful candidate will hold a PhD degree with training in plant ecology, agronomy, geography, or related physical sciences, with specific expertise in analytical methods and techniques, including remote sensing and the processing of datasets collected directly in the field.

  Interested candidates should send a CV, statement of research interests (no more than two pages) and a copy of graduate transcripts (unofficial transcripts are acceptable) to Dr. Sergio Bernardes (sbernard@uga.edu) and to Dr. Alisa Coffin (alisa.coffin@usda.gov). This is a one-year position renewable for three more years, based on performance and availability of funds. The position is based at the USDA-ARS facility in Tifton, Georgia. Expected start date is Summer/Fall 2023.
STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

UNDERGRADUATE, GRADUATE, & UGA COMMUNITY

- Fall 2023 Sustainability Internships Now Accepting Applications
  Are you a UGA student who's passionate about the just and ethical integration of social, environmental, and economic solutions? Apply for a Fall 2023 Internship with the Office of Sustainability! Deadline is April 7th. https://sustainability.uga.edu/student-programs/internships/

  List of open Fall 2023 Internship Positions
  - Campus Compost Intern - 2 positions open
  - Bee Campus - 1 position open
  - UGA Living Labs Intern - 1 open position
  - Green Roof/Green Zone Intern - 1 position open
  - Strategic Communications - 1 position open
  - Sustainability Certificate Intern - 1 position
  - Zero Waste Events Intern - 1 position
  - Commissioning (Cx)/Energy Informatics Intern - 1 position
  - Operational Water Safety and Efficiency Intern - 1 position
  - Shells to Shore Intern - 1 position
  - UGArden Compost - 1 position
  - Campus Kitchen Communications - 1 position
  - Zero Waste Athletics - 1 position

- Non-Tenure Track Assistant Professor Position at University of Minnesota Duluth
  The Geography Program at the University of Minnesota Duluth seeks a non-tenure-track instructor or non-tenure track assistant professor of human geography with a specialty in Human Environment Interactions. We are particularly interested in a colleague who will complement our existing strengths by bringing experience within areas potentially including urban/community geography, economic geography, indigenous geographies, food systems, migrant experiences, and/or feminist approaches. Candidates with a demonstrated ability to integrate GIS and geospatial technologies into their teaching will also receive special consideration.

  Candidates should have commitment to excellence in teaching and research. The successful candidate will contribute to undergraduate teaching in the department's Environment, Sustainability & Geography (ESG) degree, including core and elective courses. We are especially interested in applicants with a record of successful teaching and mentoring of students from all backgrounds (including first-generation college students, low-income students, racial and ethnic minorities, women, LGBTQ, etc.) and an interest in contributing to UMD's programs, curricular offerings, and research portfolio in ways that enhance diversity, equity, and inclusion; applicants are encouraged to address these topics in the letter of application.

  Applications must be submitted online using position number 352823 You will have the opportunity to complete an online application for the position and attach a cover letter and resume.

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 Calonius.

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

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

https://twitter.com/UGaGeography

https://geography.uga.edu
SUMMER 2023 OPPORTUNITIES

- **Community Mapping Lab Summer Assistantship.**
  The Community Mapping Lab here in Geography has two ongoing projects looking for students over the summer.
  The first is work digitizing the 1958 Athens City Directory. A lot of this will be data cleaning on a spreadsheet, but it may also involve some geocoding.
  The second involves analysis of data related to evictions in Athens, in coordination with a few local groups including the Athens Housing Advocacy Team.
  The expectation would be 5-7 hours of work per week over 10 weeks of the summer term, with some schedule flexibility. GIS/Data wrangling experience preferred but not necessary.

  If you're interested, email jshannon@uga.edu before April 15.

- **Ten AmeriCorps Summer Associate positions now available**
  Build your skills and serve your community this summer! The UGA Office of Service-Learning has ten full-time Summer Associate positions available for serving in direct-service and capacity-building roles for local education and anti-hunger initiatives, through our AmeriCorps Network. UGA’s AmeriCorps Summer Associates serve full-time for nine weeks with their partner agency, May 30 to July 31, 2023, and receive a small living allowance (just over $3,000, paid biweekly at $48.22/day) and an end-of-service education award ($1,459). See more about Summer Associate benefits at https://www.americorps.gov/members-volunteers/vista/summer-associates.

  Applications for these UGA Summer Associates are now open (closing May 3, but positions will likely be filled sooner); see the descriptions and application links below. AmeriCorps Summer Associates must be at least 18 and must be US citizens or permanent residents. The Summer Associates will collaborate with each other across these placements as well and will receive training and support from the Office of Service-Learning and their placement site.
Knowing how to plan, prepare, and respond to disasters is an increasingly employable skill set among government agencies, non-profit organizations, and the private sector.

At the Institute for Disaster Management (IDM), we strive to make the student experience the best that it can possibly be – from engaging coursework and hands-on training to rigorous research experiences and meaningful interactions with fellow peers, faculty, and staff.

The minor consists of 15 hours of engaging and applicable coursework, focusing on the societal impacts and causes of natural and human-made hazards, including how these disasters can be mitigated, planned for, and adapted to. Add it at any time on Athena, no application required!

For more information, contact the undergraduate program coordinator, Dr. Michelle Ritchie at Michelle.Ritchie@uga.edu or book a meeting at calendly.com/michelleritchie/meet

LEARN MORE BY VISITING IDM.PUBLICHEALTH.UGA.EDU OR SCAN THE QR CODE

Institute for Disaster Management
College of Public Health
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA