Physical activity plays a vital role in encouraging healthy physical and mental development in children. However, new research from recently graduated Geography Ph.D. student, Jue Yang, reveals that hundreds of counties in the U.S. are in play deserts. These play deserts are areas where designated spaces for play are either nonexistent, unsafe, or inaccessible.

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According to Dr. Yang’s analysis, about 7% of the United States would qualify as a play desert. Many of the counties lacking adequate play space are grouped in rural and suburban areas of the Southern United States though several urban areas of the southern US lack quality play space as well. “Parents often consider a park the first place to go for their children to get some exercise and to play,” said Dr. Yang.

Corresponding author and UGA Geography Department Professor Lan Mu commented: “But even if you have the park near where you live, if the environment is not safe or it’s difficult to access, then people will not use it,” The researchers utilized various methods to visualize inadequate play spaces across the country including geographic information system (GIS) techniques, self-organizing mapping, and machine learning.

They found that the Southwest is particularly lacking in play spaces that parents find acceptable and accommodating while the Southeast lacks affordable, accessible, and available play space. The researchers plan to release their interactive maps online to aid in the creation of play oasis by local and county-level leadership.

Read the UGA Today Article on Dr. Yang’s research & Read the Full Research Paper!
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UPCOMING EVENTS

**Fri. 6/2**
June 2nd
Hendershots
7pm
A night of musical, dance, poetry, and other varied performances to raise operating funds for the collective so it can continue to support community education, wellbeing, mental health, and social life.

**6/5-6/11**
April 21st
Geog Room 200D
3:45pm
Join Rec Sports for more than 30 free, in-person, fitness classes on the Unlimited Fitness and Small Group Training schedules this week only.

**Tues. 6/12**
June 12th
480 Baldwin Hall
3:00-4:30pm
Join us for a presentation by Dr. Sherry Pictou, Mi’kmaw scholar at Dalhousie University and Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Governance. Dr. Pictou’s lecture is titled: Etuaptmumk (Two-eyed seeing) & M’sit No’maq (All My Relations) in Conservation Practices.

**Mon. 6/19**
June 19th
Federal Holiday
The University of Georgia campus will be closed on Monday, June 19th in observation of Juneteenth. No classes will be held and all offices will be closed.
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.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

- **Postdoctoral Opportunity: Remote Sensing Of Agricultural Systems**

  The College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences at Oregon State University invites applications for a Geospatial Science Instructor in the Geography and Geospatial Sciences Program. The successful applicant will develop and deliver on-campus and eCampus undergraduate and graduate courses in geospatial science, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), spatial analysis, spatial statistics, programming, and/or remote sensing. The successful applicant may also advise student research projects, serve on student committees, support outreach and recruitment, and provide service to the broader community. The full consideration date is May 28, 2023. Please see https://beav.es/Sb2

- **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.
Please Remember:

Registration for a parking permit does not guarantee that you will be awarded a parking permit. For your best chances of receiving a parking assignment, please see the following steps.

Priority Parking Map tips. Look for the following areas where you have greatest priority:

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Graduate Commuters: GREEN lots

Helpful tips:

Register Early!

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Limited Space:

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BULLDOG BIKE SHARE: Students can rent these GPS-enabled, electric pedal assist bikes and leave them at the nearest bike share hub when finished.

WALKABLE CAMPUS!
The University of Georgia and the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences today welcomes Anna Westerstahl Stenport as the 17th dean of UGA's oldest and largest college. Dr. Stenport, a professor of communication and an expert in transnational cinema and media, modern literature and drama, and visual and cultural studies, with a focus on the Arctic and Nordic regions, joined the UGA faculty as the University of Georgia Athletic Association Professor in Communication Studies in the department of communication studies in April and assumes the role of dean of Franklin College on June 1, 2023.

Her deanship of UGA’s Franklin College represents a homecoming of sorts. With a scholarship from the Georgia Rotary Student Program, Stenport, a native of Sweden, spent her first year of college as an international student at UGA.

“When I came to the United States as an international student, no one in my family had studied or lived abroad. Exposure to Georgia’s rich history and culture within the context of an arts and sciences curriculum helped me understand the positive, transformational impact of public higher education in the U.S. and beyond. I am eager to give back to this extraordinary environment,” said Stenport.

Following a year of study at the University of Georgia, Stenport earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Uppsala University in Sweden. She holds a Ph.D. in comparative literature from the University of California, Berkeley.

“I am very impressed by Franklin College’s focus on holistic and experiential learning, its generation of purposeful new knowledge with real world applications, and its ambitious commitment to diverse perspectives and global reach,” said Stenport. “I look forward to advancing Franklin’s trajectory of exceptional excellence and the success of students, faculty, staff and alumni through partnership and collaboration.”

Please join us in welcoming Dean Stenport into the Franklin College family!
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Social Media

[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/GeographyDepartmentUGA/)

[Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/geographyuga/)

[Twitter](https://twitter.com/ugaGeography)

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The Dissertation Writing Retreat is offered by the Graduate School and Writing Center to provide structured writing time and resources for graduate students who are completing dissertation writing.

Interactive fair with food trucks, music and more!

Registration details coming soon.
STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

- **Organic Center Part Time Fellowship**
  The Organic Center seeks candidates for a Science Program Fellowship to advance work that aims to increase the organic research network, collaboration and resource-sharing, and expand justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in our programming related to organic research and education. This position will be offered as a 5-month appointment from 7/1/23 to 12/1/23 up to 300 hours of work for the entire fellowship.

  This fellowship position is intended for a current undergraduate student, and designed to provide experience and education to enhance skills that can be used throughout a career in data science, program development, the food and agriculture industries, or nonprofit management.

  Learn more and apply here!

GRADUATE STUDENTS

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Construction Advisory

Sanford Stadium

Construction activities for Phase 1 of the Sanford Stadium South Side Improvements will begin on November 28, 2022 and continue through August 2023.

A portion of sidewalk will be closed on the east side of Sanford Drive between Field Street and Hooper Street. A temporary crosswalk will be added for crossing at Sanford Drive in line with the east Tate Student Center pedestrian bridge.

Construction Advisory

Poultry Complex Construction

The north portion of D. W. Brooks Drive and the sidewalks within the construction fence will be closed for the duration of construction. Temporary walkways along with existing sidewalks around the perimeter of the construction site will remain open to allow access for pedestrian traffic around the construction site. Please refer to the map linked below and contact the Office of University Architects at (706) 542-3605 if you have any questions.

Follow us on social media!
Graduate Student

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WALKABLE CAMPUS!

Scan to view the parking priority map

https://tps.uga.edu/maps/permit/
The University of Georgia has recently been named one of America’s best Universities by "Money" Magazine in their annual Best Colleges in America List. This year’s list transitioned to a five star rating system in which The University of Georgia received 4.5 stars. In a press release, the magazine detailed several characteristics of UGA which contributed to the high score but specifically emphasized UGA’s above average graduation rate and scholarship support.

“The university’s 85% graduation rate is well above average, and 89% of students get grants to help fund their education,” the publication noted. “The university has an impressive number of students and faculty who earn national awards each year, including Rhodes, Fulbright and Marshall scholars.”

According to a UGAToday press release, the university’s four-year completion rate increased to a record 75.1% while the six-year completion rate grew to 88.1% last year. With a retention rate of 94.3%, UGA’s success exceeds the average completion and retention rates of peer institutions.

Read the full report from Money Magazine here!

NOTE FROM THE GEOGRAPHY OFFICE

The Geography Main office will be closed on Monday, July 3rd and Tuesday July 4th in observance of the Independence Day Holiday. Our office will resume operations on Wednesday, July 5th. Hope everyone has a safe & enjoyable holiday break!
UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tues. 7/4**
Federal Holiday

The University of Georgia campus will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th in observation of Independence Day. No classes will be held and all offices will be closed.

**6/21-7/5**

UGA Geography Maymester Course Evaluations are available between June 21st and July 5th, 2023. Please direct your students to complete their evaluations here.

**7/17-7/21**

Dissertation Writing Retreat is offered by the Graduate School and Writing Center to provide structured writing time and resources for graduate students who are completing dissertation writing.

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UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

- **OSL Community Food Fellows Full Time Position**

  The UGA Office of Service-Learning is seeking applicants for a full-time staff position in our office to help coordinate and build our forthcoming new initiative, the Community Food Fellows program, with funding support from an AmeriCorps State grant.

  The coordinator will lead all aspects of this new program and coordinate recruitment/training/supervision/reporting of these AmeriCorps members, and will also help with our existing AmeriCorps VISTA network. As such, experience with AmeriCorps is helpful.

  See more details and application instructions at [https://www.ugajobsearch.com/postings/325293](https://www.ugajobsearch.com/postings/325293)

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