

The Graticule Weekly

UGA's Geography Newsletter



RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

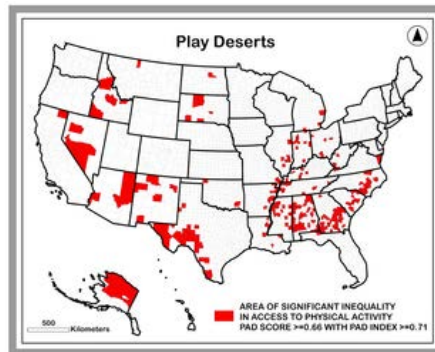
'Play deserts' common throughout Deep South, Southwest



Jue Yang, Ph.D.

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.

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.



Dr. Lan Mu

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!](#)

General News and Announcements



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Follow us on social media!



UPCOMING EVENTS



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.



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.



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.



June 19th
Federal Holiday

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Social Media

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<https://twitter.com/UGaGeography>



<https://geography.uga.edu>

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](#)

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WALKABLE CAMPUS!

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WELCOME, DEAN STENPORT!

Franklin College Welcomes Dean Anna Stenport in a Press Release by Alan Flurry



"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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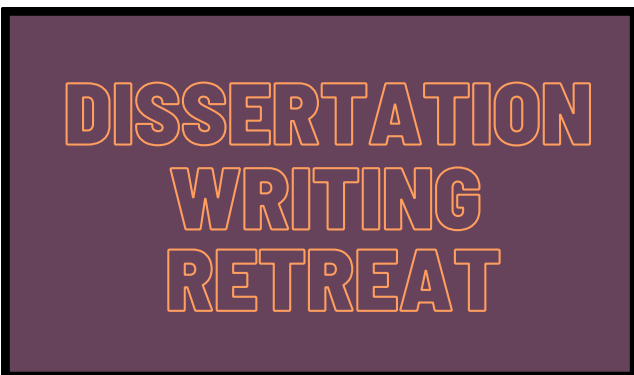
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<https://geography.uga.edu>

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!](#)

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UGA IN THE NEWS

“Money” magazine highlights UGA within Best Colleges in America 2023 List



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!

General News and Announcements



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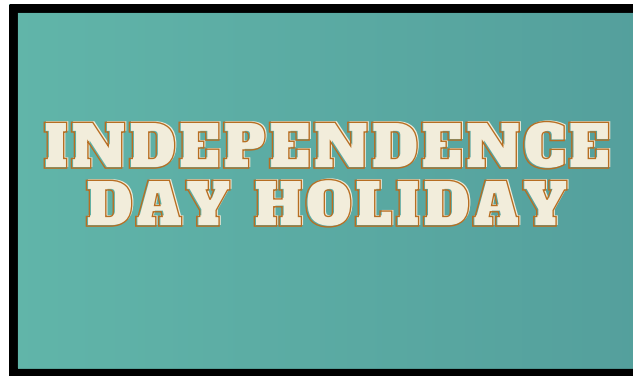


UPCOMING EVENTS



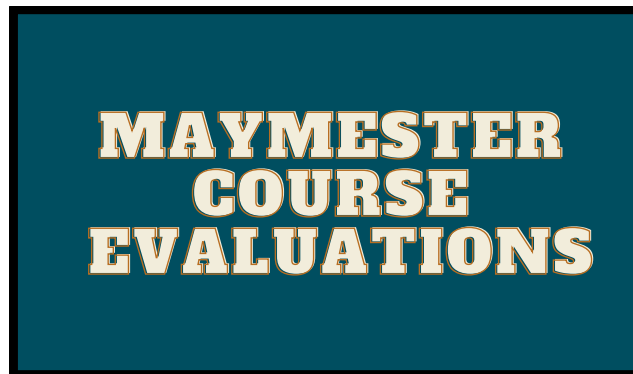
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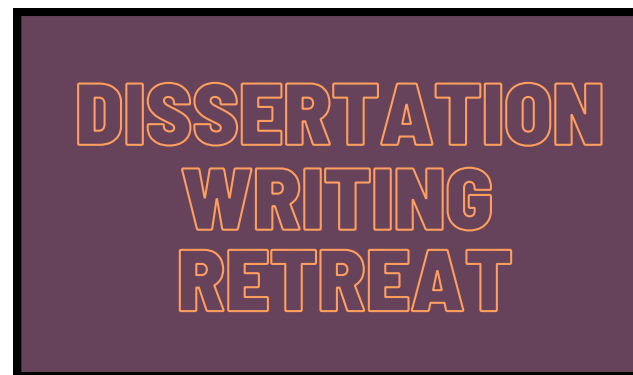
June 21- July 5

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STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

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>

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