

NCGS

Semester Update



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Announcements

The NCGS is currently working on plans for future NCGS Conferences and Annual Meetings. We will have more information when plans have been finalized. Additionally, we are currently redesigning *The North Carolina Geographer* and are looking for Editors and Reviewers. If you are interested participating in our peer review process, please contact Joyce Clapp at jfclapp@uncg.edu and Jesse M. Lane at jmlane2@uncg.edu.

Inside This Issue

Pg. 2

Newly elected officers of the NCGS to implement new social media program, peer reviewed journal, and open bank account.

Pg. 3

UNCC hosted the Applied Geography Conference, WCU hired Lara Bryant, and UNCP expands new major and certificate program.

Pg. 4

ECU offers new courses, UNCG will host several colloquium speakers, App State hosts guest speaker Mike Williams, and UNCCH hired two new faculty members.

Pg. 5

UNCW changed degree title and hired new faculty, NCCU is offering a new online program, and SEDAAG will be hosted online this fall.

Minutes from Fall 2019 NCGS Annual Business Meeting

The meeting was called to order in the Maple Room of the Elliot University Center on the campus of University of North Carolina at Greensboro at 12:30 pm on November 1st by President L. Jesse Rouse. A special thank you was given to the UNCG Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability for hosting the event.

1. Officers and Steering Committee elections were held. The following positions were filled: Joyce Clapp (President), Jesse M. Lane (Vice President), Philip Beach (Secretary), Shane Canup (Treasurer), Christopher McGinn (Steering Committee), Nicole Hawks (Steering Committee), and Yongjun Lei (Steering Committee). No Social Media Editor was nominated.

2. Reports were delivered by President L. Jesse Rouse concerning the state of affairs in the NCGS. The NCGS will be revamping the North Carolina Geographer peer reviewed journal, improving social media presence, and improving standing committees in the next year. Newly elected officers will open a company bank account at SunTrust bank to better serve the future of the North Carolina Geographer.

3. New Business: A vote was called to change the dates on future NCGS Conferences and Business Meetings. The next conference will occur during the spring semester of 2021 and newly elected officers will confer with NCGIS for possible inclusion in their next conference.

4. Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENTS

University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Persian poet Rumi says: “Friends, we are traveling together.”

The past year has been both challenging and rewarding for the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences. In Fall 2019, we opened our newly renovated lobby and large teaching classrooms, welcoming new undergraduate and graduate students to the Department. Like most universities across the country, our spring efforts largely focused on shifting to remote teaching due to the COVID-

19 pandemic, while attempting to continue research and service. At the same time, we planned for further renovation of the remainder of McEntery Building, packing up our offices, labs, and teaching spaces. We moved entirely out of the building in June with the renovation kicking off on June 23! We will remain in temporary space across five buildings, returning to a renewed McEntery in time for Fall 2021.

While we waved goodbye to our graduates in person in fall, and virtually in spring (Link to video: “[Congrats 2020 Geography and Earth Sciences Graduates](#)”), we welcomed many new undergraduate majors, experiencing continued growth in our newest programs, the BA in Environmental Studies and BS in Earth and Environmental Science. These majors each increased in size for the 5th straight year. As we launch Fall 2020, UNCC’s enrollments surpassed 30,000 and we have the largest first year class on record as of the most recent numbers. Incoming majors and graduate students mirror these strong student enrollments.

Geography major Connor Wood was awarded The Chancellor’s Citation for Leadership and Service for his mentoring and resident advising work, as well as time in student government. One of our MA students, Caroline Brinegar, was named UNCC’s Outstanding Master’s Teaching Assistant for 2000. PhD Candidate Paul Jung received the 3rd Prize of the John Odland Award at the 2020 AAG meeting.

The Department welcomed two new faculty last year, Michael Ewers, and Joseph Kangmennaang. Dr. Laurie Garo was promoted to Senior Lecturer and Dr. Elizabeth Delmelle was granted tenure and is the Department’s newest Associate Professor.

Dr. Casey Davenport won the American Meteorological Society’s Editor’s Award. The Council of the Geological Society of America named Dr. Martha Eppes and Dr. Russ Keanini (Mechanical, Engineering) winners of the 2020 Kirk Bryan Award for Research Excellence for their 2017 publication in the Reviews of Geophysics, “Mechanical weathering and rock erosion by climate-dependent subcritical cracking.” Dr. Colleen Hammelman was awarded a prestigious National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development Program



(CAREER) Grant to study population change and gentrification in urban foodscapes. Senior Lecturer Terry Shirley was named one of three finalists for the UNCC's Teaching Excellence Award.

Continuing its longstanding tradition in the world of applied geographic research, the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences hosted the Applied Geography Conference in Charlotte, October 23-25, 2019. Geographers from far and wide converged in Charlotte to discuss their work. Drs. Bill Graves and Harrison's Campbell's work organizing this event led to a highly successful conference.

Western Carolina University

The Geosciences and Natural Resources Department at Western Carolina successfully moved 61 course sections online and prepped them for online teaching with one week's notice. And survived it. That was truly the department's greatest accomplishment this semester. A new geographer instructor was hired, and the department is excited about her arrival. Here is her bio:

“Lara Bryant is new to Western Carolina University as a geography instructor in the Department of Geosciences and Natural Resource Management. She was formerly an Associate Professor of Geography at Keene State College, in Keene, New Hampshire. She comes to Cullowhee with a range of experience in geographic education from ten years teaching geography in both rural and urban secondary public schools, to twelve years offering geography classes geared toward pre-service education majors in higher education. She earned her Masters of Applied Geography and doctorate in Geographic Education from Texas State University-San Marcos. At Texas State she was actively involved in the Texas Alliance for Geographic Education in a multitude of roles including teacher consultant and conference coordinator. In New Hampshire, Bryant was also the coordinator for the New Hampshire Geographic Alliance, and was engaged in geography education outreach programs with the public-school system throughout New Hampshire.”

University of North Carolina at Pembroke

The Department of Geology and Geography at UNCP continues to grow our new major in Geo-Environmental Studies as well as our undergraduate Geospatial Technologies Certificate. With four full-time Geology faculty and three full-time Geography faculty, the department and our major bring together aspects of the physical and human world for all our students whether they focus on the Geography track of Geoscience track. Our undergraduate majors are heavily involved in our ongoing funded research projects including the long running Kids in the Garden project and Robeson County Groundwater Monitoring project, both of which include department faculty as principal investigators.

While UNCP remains committed to providing students an on-campus experience during the pandemic, all events, meetings, and conference participation have gone virtual where possible. Our Geography faculty have participated virtually in the recent DH2020 conference, have submitted to participate in this fall's virtual Applied Geography Conference, and hope to present work with students at the upcoming virtual SEDAAG conference.

East Carolina University

The Department of Geography, Planning and Environment at East Carolina University has had a productive year despite the chaos around us. The program has gone through an external review this year and we are grateful for the insights provided by Drs. Sharmistha Bagchi-Sen (U. of Buffalo) and John Kupfer (U. of South Carolina) for their time and insights. We have three new faculty in our program Drs. Hannah Cooper (geomatics and coastal), Yoo Min Park (GIS and public health) and Jacob Petersen-Perlman (water resources and transboundary water issues). Dr. Petersen-Perlman also has a joint appointment in ECU's Water Resources Center. Dr. Beth Bee was awarded the ECU Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Early Career Award. Dr. Bee was also promoted to Associate Professor and Dr. Tom Rickenbach was promoted to Professor. The Department has also pushed to increase externally funded grants this past academic

year finishing sixth amongst HCAS Departments in total funds awarded and fourth in total grants submitted and total grant funds submitted this reporting period. The department remained productive in other scholarly areas with 33 peer-reviewed articles and 3 peer-reviewed book chapters. Dr. Scott Lecce continues to serve as Co-editor-in-Chief of the journal *Geomorphology* and several other faculty members continue to serve on editorial boards.

On the teaching front we offered our first natural science lab, GEOG1251 Water in the Environment Lab in Spring 2020. This course follows ADI approaches used in other natural science lab courses at ECU. Remote sensing has seen a resurgence in our program and Dr. Yong Wang (Associate Editor of the journal *Remote Sensing of Environment*) has taken the lead on this. Dr. Yoo Min Park in her GIS and Environmental Health course had the students grapple with mapping the COVID-19 cases in NC and the USA in her GIS and Environmental Health course this spring from the onset of the event in the USA. DGPE faculty mentored five undergraduate student honors research projects this past year with more this fall. Dr. Anuradah Murkherji worked with local planning agencies to develop several upper-division learning experiences that directly benefited local planning offices by conducting applied research projects for the community. Several students were honored with research and academic awards this past year and new accolades already this year. Three students were also supported this summer to work in Miami with the aid of the annual Lyman “Skip” Dickerson Internship and Scholarship.

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

The Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability launched new degree programs in Fall 2020: the B.S. in Geography (previously, only the B.A. was available for students majoring in Geography), the B.A. in Environment & Sustainability, and an online M.S. in Sustainability & Environment. The new M.S. started strong with sixteen students in its first semester. We welcomed a new administrative assistant, Gloria Darby, in June. Dr. Plaxedes Chitiyo joined the department this fall as a lecturer in the Environment & Sustainability program. Despite the ongoing pandemic, we are hosting

several colloquium speakers this year, including two holdovers from last spring's campus-wide Harriet Elliott Lecture Series on the theme of “Just Futures: Equity and Sustainability,” hosted by GES. Please visit <https://ges.uncg.edu> to find out more about our programs, people, and events!

Appalachian State University

The Department of Geography and Planning at Appalachian State University has successfully moved to a hybrid style approach to instruction and is providing alternative ways for students to access the resources needed in their research. While this move has been difficult, instructors and administrators are working diligently to improve the learning experience during this unprecedented time.

As of fall 2020, Dr. Saskia van de Gevel has taken over as the Department Chair. She has been actively involved with students and faculty for the past 12 years and is looking forward to working with the department. In addition, faculty members have been researching topics such as meteorological factors influencing COVID-19 transmission, impacts of removing Ward's Mill dam from the Watauga River, impact of CAVs on safety, mobility, and economic development, and refugee violence and forced migration.

The department will also be holding a speaker series with special guest Mike Williams, Education Projects Manager at the National Humanities Center in Research Triangle Park, NC. His presentation is titled “Finding Our Way Back: Examining the Geography of the Black Past” and will be held online October 22nd, 2020 at 3:30 pm. If you would like to watch his presentation, go to the following link: <https://appstate.zoom.us/j/99440176140>.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

UNC-CH Geography is pleased to welcome two new faculty to our department. [Dr. Danielle Purifoy](#) (Assistant Professor) comes to UNC-CH geography with a PhD from Duke University and a JD from Harvard Law School and is an expert on environmental justice and environmental conditions in the U.S., especially as they



relate to Black towns in the South. [Dr. Chérie Rivers Ndaliko](#) (Associate Professor) is an interdisciplinary scholar of African studies and conducts work on decolonial practices, critical sustainability, and radical black thought. The department launched a new minor in GIScience last year and a new minor in Environmental Justice this fall. Our undergraduate and graduate students have been working with faculty to plan a colloquium series with a focus on race and social justice. The series was launched with a talk by Geography alumni [Omololu Refilwe Babatunde](#), who was instrumental in the movement to rename our building's department and confront the landscapes of white supremacy of our campus landscape.

University of North Carolina at Wilmington

Geography at UNCW, housed in the Department of Earth and Ocean Sciences, continues to thrive with more than forty students enrolled in graduate and undergraduate programs. Recent changes included a renaming of the undergraduate degree from a BA in Geography to a BA in Geography and Geospatial Science. Dr. Peng Gao, graduate of the University of South Carolina, was hired in a tenure track geography position Fall 2020, and he will be developing courses and a research in spatial programming and modeling. The Department successfully hosted the SEDAAG meeting in downtown Wilmington Fall 2019. Faculty continue to receive research grants from agencies such as the National Science Foundation and the North Carolina Department of Transportation. These projects include investigation of paleo droughts in Central America, Neanderthal settlements in coastal Portugal, drone mapping of Carolina wetlands, and ground water resources in Egypt and Sudan. All these projects offer opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to conduct research with faculty members. Student interested in the graduate program should visit our website for more information, <https://uncw.edu/msgeoscience/index.html>. The 2020-2021 academic year has offered challenges with the global pandemic, just as it has for all other NC schools, but the geography faculty and students are pushing ahead to create and participate in quality learning experiences.

North Carolina Central University

Department of Environmental, Earth and Geospatial Sciences (DEEGS) has welcomed a new faculty member, Associate Professor Dr. Christopher Zarzar. Chris received a Ph.D. in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences in 2017 from Mississippi State University. Before coming to North Carolina Central University (NCCU), he was Assistant Research Professor at Wake Forest University where he developed a new Environment and Sustainability program. At NCCU he will be developing an interactive climate curriculum and involving students and the community in his research on drones, flooding, climate, and hazards.

DEEGS is excited to announce a new, fully online B.S. in Environmental and Geographic Sciences, Geoscience Concentration, specifically designed for community college transfer students. Students enrolled in the online program can also complete Certificate in Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT) in conjunction with their B.S. program. Undergraduate GEOINT certificate is accredited by the United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation and provides students with capabilities in geospatial intelligence and opportunities for work in the Intelligence Community and allied disciplines. Link to the new online program:

- <https://nccuonline.nccu.edu/programs/b-s-in-environmental-and-geographic-sciences-geoscience-concentration/>

Southeastern Division of the American Association of Geographers (SEDAAG)

SEDAAG is a regional subdivision of the American Association of Geographers, representing approximately 500 members in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. Our organization exists to advance investigations in geography and to encourage the application of geographic findings in education, government, and business. Members receive our quarterly peer-reviewed journal, Southeastern Geographer, and discounted registration rates at our annual meeting. We grant honors in recognition of



excellence in teaching, service, and research; host educational and professional development workshops; support student paper and poster awards; and host a World Geography Bowl competition.

This is a great year to “try out” SEDAAG by participating in our first virtual meeting, which will be

held November 6 and 7th, 2020. Please consider organizing a session or presenting! We are working to organize several student-focused events this year, and we would welcome your participation. Please visit <https://sedaag.org/> for more information on SEDAAG and our annual meeting.



North Carolina Geographical Society Contacts

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What is the NCGS?

The North Carolina Geographical Society (NCGS) focuses on the tenants of:

- The need for the advancement of geographical knowledge in the schools, colleges, and public life of North Carolina.
- The continuing importance of geographical information to the national and international well-being of the United States.
- The desirability of a single organization to represent the diverse geographical personnel resources within North Carolina.

The NCGS supports these ideals by promoting events, publishing an annual journal, and supporting academic and professional development opportunities in geography and related fields. To find out how you can become a member of the NCGS, visit our NCGS Membership Page at <https://ncgeography.org/ncgs-membership/>.



“Some hills are each only a few centimeters short of being a mountain.”



“When you get mentally free, you are free. The rest is just geography!”



“Maps lie. Or at least, they don't always tell the truth. They're like us humans that way.”



“Every where's been where it is ever since it was first put there. It's called geography.”

Under the Spotlight

In a recent publication by Michigan State's Danielle R. Gartner and UNC Chapel Hill's Ann L. Krome-Lukens and Paul L. Delamater titled “Implementation of Eugenic Sterilization in North Carolina: Geographic Proximity to Raleigh and its Association with Female Sterilization During the Mid-20th Century,” authors discussed the deep, often forgotten, history and geography of the eugenics era in North Carolina. This article uncovers interesting links between the Eugenics Board and local funding efforts to institute spatially relevant sterilization policies.

