SPRING 2022 ISSUE NO. 4

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:



# PERSPECTIVES

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THE SEMI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND THE ENVIRONMENT



## A MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR

BY STEVE WOLVERTON

It was a busy year, one in which we returned to campus to teach face-to-face classes. This year, the department added a new degree, a Bachelors of Science in GIS + Computer Science, which was recently profiled by ESRI (read more **here**). The degree is the first of its kind, and GIS professionals are very excited about it! In addition, we celebrated four university awards and one college-level award among our faculty members in 2021-22, and Dr. Alexandra Ponette-González was promoted to full professor while Dr. Lu Liang was tenured and promoted to associate professor. Congratulations! This spring we also recognized high-achieving students at our awards reception. Finally, a new faculty member will be joining us this summer - Dr. Wei Kang who is currently at UC Riverside (learn more **here**); welcome, Dr. Kang! Here's to a fun, restful summer!

Steve

# PROGRAM NEWS

## FACULTY AWARDS

This Spring, we saw several of our Geography faculty win awards for their work with teaching, research, and service. We're proud of all our faculty but we'd especially like to highlight those who were recognized this semester:

**Dr. Kara Fulton** (affiliated faculty member of the Department of Geography and the Environment, archaeologist, anthropologist, Chair of New College, and B.A.A.S. Program Director) was recognized with the Online Teacher and Course Award for ARCH 2800 by UNT's Division of Digital Strategy and Innovation (DSI) and Center for Learning, Experimentation, Application, and Research (CLEAR). ARCH 2800 has been deemed outstanding based on nationally recognized standards for excellence in online course design.

**Dr. Alexandra Ponette-González** received the Ulys and Vera Knight Faculty Mentor Award, an honor which recognizes a faculty member who demonstrates sustained excellence in mentoring undergraduate students, graduate students, and/or other faculty. Mentoring may include support and guidance in the areas of teaching, research, service, academic achievement, and/or professional development.

**Dr. Lu Liang** received the UNT Presidential Early Career Professorship Award, which recognizes a faculty member, during their probationary period, who has an outstanding record of research, scholarship, or creative activity, and whose work shows the potential to be transformative. This is the highest research honor for an assistant professor at UNT.

**Dr. Matthew Fry** received the UNT Community Award, an award that honors students, faculty, or staff members for outstanding service that has enriched the UNT experience for the UNT community.


**Dr. Murray Rice** received the 2022 Business Geography Distinguished Service Award (from the Business Geography Specialty Group of the American Association of Geographers) for his many years of service and dedication.

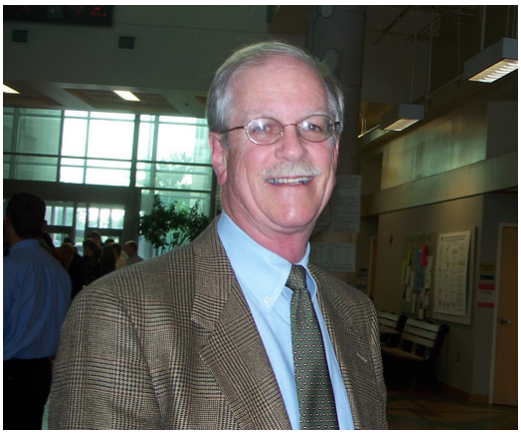
# PROGRAM NEWS

We have worked behind the scenes these last few semesters to introduce a new undergraduate certificate. This coming fall will see the **Geospatial Analytics certificate** take into effect in the university course catalog. Geospatial analytics enables the field of Location Intelligence (LI). LI applies geographic thinking, visualization, and analytics to empower organizations to incorporate considerations of place and space in decision making. Studies show that 97% of companies believe location intelligence is crucial to their success, two-thirds of business executives use LI to gain a competitive edge, and more than half use it to create new market opportunities. Read more about Geospatial Analytics job market demands **here**. Students working towards the certificate will gain an understanding of how location theory and data analytics can be leveraged to provide a strategic advantage within various domains including data science, the public sector, and non-profit organizations. The 12-credit hour certificate includes coursework in business and retail geography, health and medical geography, exploratory data analysis, as well as GIS.

**Dr. Lisa Nagaoka** began serving as Special Assistant to the Executive Dean in CLASS in February. In this role, she helps faculty and doctoral students in the college with research opportunities, with a particular focus on seeking grant funding. The role of special assistant is to lay groundwork for a research office in the college. This semester, Lisa has been meeting with department chairs, reviewing departmental research road maps that were composed in 2021, and creating grant-writing workshops for PhD students in the college. Lisa also organized a data analytics workshop for faculty members in the college, which may be expanded in the future.

Late this semester, the department hired a new assistant professor, **Dr. Wei Kang**, who comes to us from the University of California Riverside. There, she was a Research Scientist. Wei's research interests are in GIScience, spatial statistics, spatial econometrics, urban data science, housing & inequality, urban & neighborhood dynamics, sustainability, and urban geography. She received her PhD in Geography from the School of Geographical Science and Urban Planning from Arizona State University. We're excited to have Wei join our faculty and begin teaching students this coming fall semester!

# FACULTY RETIREMENT: DR. REID FERRING



**Dr. Reid Ferring** finished teaching his last class at UNT on May 5th. He taught Origins of Civilization and Geology of Texas this spring, and during the last several years he also taught Honors Introduction to Geology and Soils Geomorphology. Thousands of students have taken Reid's classes during the four decades that he taught at UNT. Reid came to UNT in 1978 to work as an archaeologist through the Institute of Applied Science. In the late 1970s through the 1980s, Reid managed large cultural resource management projects in North Texas, including work at Lake Lewisville and Lake Ray Roberts. During that period, Reid discovered and excavated the famous Aubrey Clovis Site just downstream from what is now Lake Ray Roberts; the site is still recognized as one of the oldest, most complete early North American hunter-gatherer camp sites. The site report for Aubrey that Reid edited has chapters authored by the who's who of American archaeology and paleontology. For most archaeologists, one famous site represents the work of a career, but for Reid it has been two famous sites. After a stint doing geoarchaeological research in Portugal, Reid was invited to pursue research at the world-famous site of Dmanisi in the Republic of Georgia. Dmanisi is still recognized as one of the oldest sites with fossil hominin remains and artifacts outside of Africa. Reid's expertise in geoarchaeology has been essential for dissecting the complex geological history of the site and the surrounding landscape. Reid's research has been funded by high-profile agencies, such as NSF, the Leakey Foundation, National Geographic, and the Fulbright Foundation. He has given lectures across the United States and around the world. His research is published in premier scientific journals, such as *Science*, *Nature*, and the *Journal of Human Evolution*.

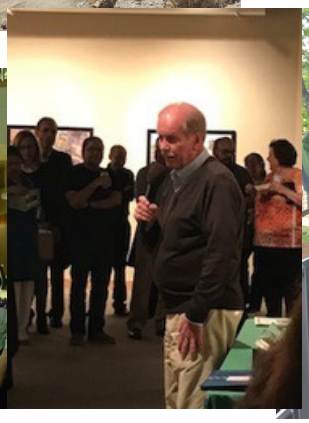
Reid's many graduate students from UNT and other institutions benefit greatly from his knowledge and compassion, working on archaeological projects in North Texas, the American Southwest, the Republic of Georgia, and Portugal. In the department, we have enjoyed Reid's kindness, intelligence, and willingness to serve others (twice as department chair) as well as his sense of humor. Two things you may not know about Reid; first, he holds two doctorates, one in anthropology from SMU, and a second in geology from UTD. Also, he makes the best smoked turkey! We are honored to have Reid as a colleague, and we wish him the very best in retirement.

*A note from Reid, to colleagues, students and friends:*

*Thank all of you for the tea celebrating my retirement on Cinco de Mayo! It was so nice to see old friends, current and former students, and all of you that I have worked with for so many years. On June 1st I will be officially retired, ending 44 years of active duty. Thursday's get together, following my last class, brought this whole transition to focus, and brought on many fine memories. It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with all of you, and to be a part of our department's evolution over these four decades. I will miss teaching and working with students very much, but I take comfort in knowing that you all will continue to provide our students with the knowledge, skills and support they'll need to achieve their goals. I will be able to continue my own research, which I will do on behalf of the department as emeritus professor, and will therefore retain pride in being associated with all of the productive and important research that you all do. I send each of you my personal best wishes for your continued contributions as teachers, mentors and scholars and as colleagues dedicated to our traditions and our important mission.*

*With lasting thanks,*
*Reid*

# DR. FERRING, THROUGH THE YEARS



**THANK YOU, Reid! Everyone at the Dept. of Geography and the Environment will miss you!**

# DEPARTMENT FACULTY UPDATES

Lately, **Dr. Paul Hudak** has been studying rocks and plants at lake margins. He's taken a special interest in sandstone concretions, found locally in the eroding Woodbine Formation. Woodbine sediment accumulated in a delta that covered parts of north-central Texas approximately 100 million years ago. The concretions formed inside sediment, shortly after deposition, as minerals precipitated from solution in successive layers around a nucleus. Concretions tend to be harder and more resistant to weathering than surrounding rocks when exposed at land surface. Paul has noticed that sediment and moisture accumulating inside concretions creates a suitable substrate for plant seeds, including buttonbush. In turn, buttonbush helps stabilize shorelines and provides food and habitat for various birds, deer, and insects. When people find concretions, they often misinterpret them, hoping they are meteorites or dinosaur eggs. Rarely construed as "rock stars," concretions are special, too. Each one is unique, complex, and part of the earth system.

2022 has been a whirlwind for **Dr. Alexandra Ponette-González**'s lab and her Ecosystem Geography students! Cody Kimpton and Shrithra Gayathri presented their research at UNT Scholars Day and the Society for Ecological Restoration/Geography Student Association Research Symposium. Molly Burke continues to work on her NSF Research Experience for Post-Baccalaureates project on soil black carbon storage in urban ecosystems. Savannah Thomas got off to an amazing start this January, transitioning from being an undergraduate to a graduate student and beginning new research on North Texas urban tree ecosystem services. Alexandra was awarded UNT's Ulys and Vera Knight Faculty Mentor Award and will be working with Jen Ellis and Cody Kimpton on a new Texas Trees Foundation project on particulate matter accumulation by diverse urban tree species! This summer, she is welcoming two new lab members: Rylee Babino and Eva Dwelle, both Honors students. Shritha will be back in the fall!

In Spring 2022, **Dr. Yuting Li** conducted two class projects in GEOL 3030 Earthquake and Volcanoes. In the first project, students conducted independent research on one earthquake event that most interests them and collected data that covers what we have learnt in class about various aspects of earthquakes, including earthquake size, focus, epicenter, geological setting that causes the quake, impacts, emergency management, etc. Each student gave an individual presentation on their own topic and interacted with the whole class in Q&A sessions. Dr. Li graded presentations and emailed written feedback to each student individually. Taking the feedback from their first-round presentation, students conduct their second project on volcanoes through collaboration in groups. The class saw great improvement on students' presenting skills and their capability of sharing a disaster event from a scientific and professional perspective. Also this semester, Dr. Li served on two search committees in Department of Geography and Department of Psychology. Her service roles also include the lab coordinator of GEOL 1610 and departmental undergraduate advisor.

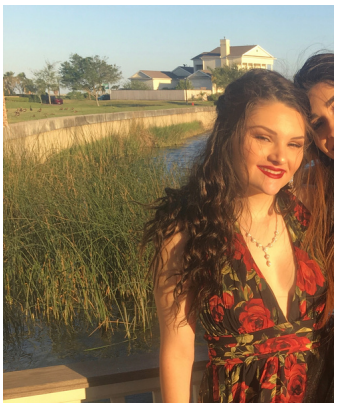
**Dr. Murray Rice** taught three courses this semester: GEOG 2110 (our introduction to the geography major course, co-taught with Dr. Steve Wolverton), GEOG 4185/5185 (Statistical Research in Geography), and GEOG 4230/5230 (Location Intelligence). All three courses proved to be both challenging and fun, but one element is worthwhile noting. Murray's location intelligence class worked with Vaquero Developments of Fort Worth on their major semester project. Vaquero is a great partner for UNT Geography, having hired their initial GIS team of two UNT grads/current students in 2021. Vaquero extended their partnership this semester to give Murray's students the opportunity to engage in a real-world business GIS analysis. The project focuses on geographic analysis of investment opportunities for a new business Vaquero is starting. Early indications are that the students have made quite an impression with Vaquero, introducing a number of innovative ideas for Vaquero to use in its business development activities. Industry collaborations have proven to be of great value in teaching advanced geospatial skills and giving students material to demonstrate to potential employers their extensive range of analytical abilities.

# FALL 2021-SPRING 2022 TEACHING ASSISTANTS

In last semester's newsletter, we featured four of our new Teaching Assistants. Please read on to learn more about some of our other TAs, who have worked so hard to help the Spring 2022 semester be successful for our faculty and students. The Department of Geography is thankful for their contributions!

**Shwarnali Bhattacharjee** (TA for GEOL 1610)
Major professor: Dr. Pinliang Dong
Area of Interest: Application of remote sensing and GIS on coastal geomorphology, oceanography, wetland ecosystem studies and climate change
Fun facts: I love traveling, trekking and reading books. Singing and crocheting are my favorite hobbies; I like to play ukulele while I sing.

**Douglas Smith** (TA for GEOG 4550/5550, & 4560/5560)
Co-Chairs: Dr. Terra Rowe and Dr. Chetan Tiwari
Area of Interest: GIS by way of Environmental Racism and Ecofeminism
Fun facts: Board game geek who enjoys reading rule books for games that tragically may well never be played.



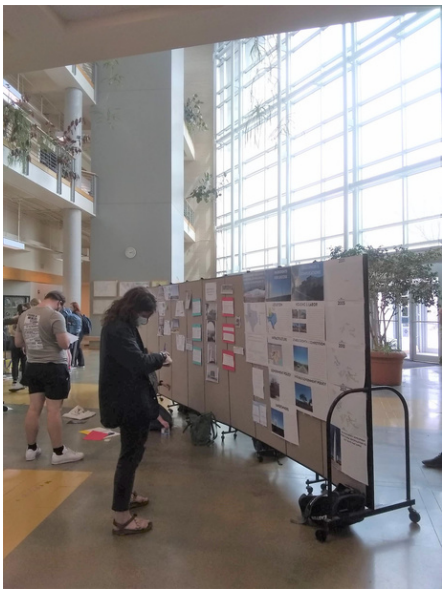
**Marissa Greer** (TA for GEOG 1710 & 4710)
Major professor: Dr. Matthew Fry
Area of Interest: Energy justice in Texas, renewable energy, environmental justice
Fun facts: I have two cats and two citizenships.

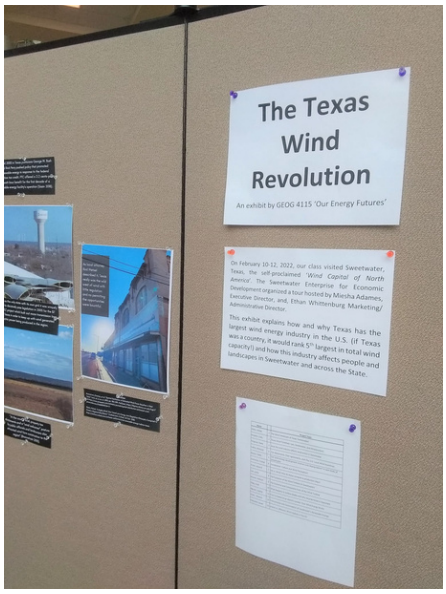
**Benjamin Lyke** (TA for GEOG 3500)
Major Professor: Dr. Matthew Fry
Area of Interest: Geospatial analytics
Fun facts: I enjoy tennis, D&D, baking, and embroidery (although I don't know what I'm doing with that so I just free-hand my designs).

# STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND HIGHLIGHTS

Our students had a busy semester - from special projects to presenting research work. We're proud of all their accomplishments this spring!

**Dr. Matthew Fry's GEOG 4115 "Our Energy Futures" class** took a trip in February to Sweetwater (TX), the self-proclaimed "Wind Capital of North America". After their trip, the students showcased their projects in an exhibit that explained how and why Texas has the largest wind energy industry in the U.S. (if Texas was a country, it would rank 5th largest in total wind capacity!) and how this industry affects people and landscapes in Sweetwater and across the state.






| Analysis | Significance |
|---|---|
| Target Zone | Highlights census tract units in which variables are within desired ranges |
| Ranking | Add variables to rank census tracts to determine the value of a location |
| Shortest Distance | Determine the shortest distance from a census tract's population centroid to a roadway |
| Filtering | Filter out census tracts that do not meet criteria |

Table 1: Analyses utilized and their significance to processing data.

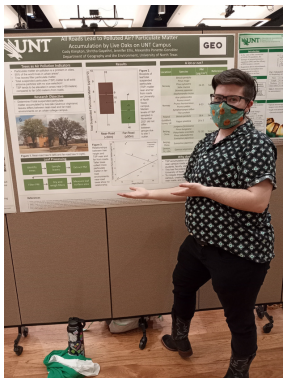
| Datasets | Description | Limitations |
|---|---|---|
| Vaquero Venture's Self-Storage Locations | Dataset provided by Vaquero on locations of other self-storage competitors in Florida | Data could be missing some locations such as smaller owned self-storage facilities |
| ESRI's Business Analyst Web | Dataset used to gather retailer locations and demographic data | Dataset does not include all retailer locations and is limited to 2010 Census geographies |
| U.S. Census Bureau | Census data used for median age, median household income, 2010 population, and tract population centroid | Data limited to only 2010 geographies due to currently being used by BA Web |
| Open Street Map | Dataset used to gather location of apartment and office buildings | Data missing primarily from rural and some urban areas due to user-based input system |
| Florida's National Highway System | Dataset used to measure distance from census tract population centroid | Geography potentially not including major roads that are significant to an area's economy |

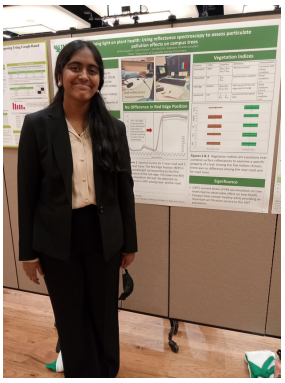
**Dr. Rice's GEOG 4230/5230 Location Intelligence class** worked with Vaquero Developments, engaging students in real-world business GIS analysis. Jonathan Cupit won "Most Creative Project" in the class's Business BIS Research Project Competition with his paper "Vaquero Ventures' Expansion into Self-Storage: A Suitability Analysis of Florida's Market"; James Pilkenton won "Best Undergraduate Student Project; Ciara Mason won "Best Project Recommendation" with her paper "Initial Storage Facility Placement Analysis: East Rockies Region"; and Larry Voice won "Best Graduate Student Project" with his paper "Analysis of the Carolinas for Potential Self-Storage Locations.

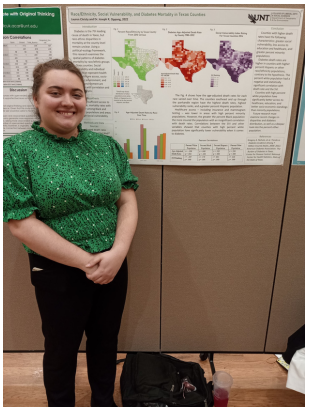
# STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND HIGHLIGHTS, CONTINUED

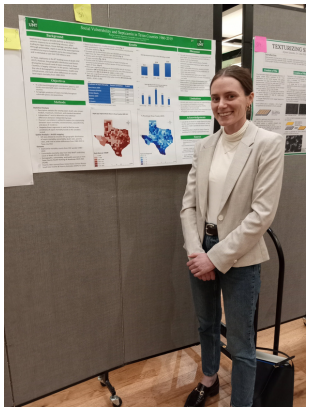
Six of our students presented at this year's Scholars Day, which is hosted annually by UNT's Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Honors College. The event on April 5 celebrated their work as researchers and contributors in our academic community.







As pictured above, our students presented a paper and posters. Dayani Davila presented her paper, titled "Nitrate Contamination of Groundwater in the Yucatan Peninsula (2018-2021). Cody Kimpton presented his poster "All Roads Lead to Polluted Air? Particulate Matter Accumulation by Live Oaks on UNT Campus". Ashley Green presented her poster "Parks and Rec . . . creating the Past in the Present through Rephotography". Shritha Gayathri presented her poster "Shining light on plant health: Using reflectance spectroscopy to assess particulate pollution effects on campus trees". Lauren Christy presented her poster "Race/Ethnicity, Social Vulnerability, and Diabetes Mortality in Texas Counties". Madeline Crawford presented her paper "Social Vulnerability and Septicemia in Texas Counties 1980-2019". And we cannot forget the contributions of Dr. Matthew Fry and graduate student Kaitlin Stewart (1st picture on the top row) as poster competition judges!

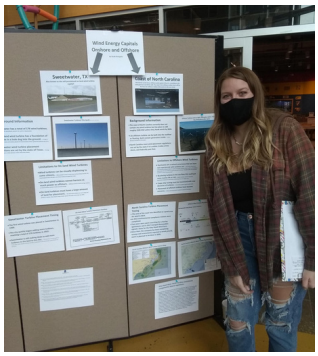
# STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND HIGHLIGHTS, CONTINUED

Two student organizations, the **Geography Student Association** (GSA) and the **Society for Ecological Restoration** (SER) put together a wonderful event late in the spring semester - an undergraduate research symposium sponsored by the Advanced Environmental Research Institute (AERI). According to Ashley Green, President of GSA, the symposium came to fruition after a group of students attended the 2021 Southwest Division of the American Association of Geographers (SWAAG) back in October. After the trip, the students (members of both GSA and SER) wanted a place to showcase their research to peers on campus, in hopes of inspiring other undergrads to pursue their own projects. They also wanted to create a space for first-time presenters to get some experience in a low-pressure environment. The event's main goal was to create a fun, interdisciplinary event for people to come together, meet others from different departments, and celebrate undergraduate research happening at UNT. The symposium was a great start and they hope to make it an annual event!

The main organizers of the GSA and SER Research Symposium were Ashley Green (Geography undergrad), Jimena Vivanco (Ecology undergrad, SER President), Savannah Thomas (Geography grad student, SER Grad Advisor), Brand Richter (Geography undergrad, SER Liaison Officer), and Jaime Baxter-Slye (Biology) with help on the day of the event from GSA and SER members. The judges involved were Dr. Matthew Fry (Geography Associate Professor), David Ferring (Geography adjunct instructor), and Zacchaeus Compson (Biology Assistant Professor). The Research Symposium also had a portion of the event that featured panelists: Sam Kieschnick (Texas Parks and Wildlife), Sarah Luxton (City of Plano, Geography alumna), Paul Hudak (Geography Professor), Lauren Fischer (Public Administration Assistant Professor), and Richard Freiheit (Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area). The winner of the symposium was Clarissa Molina and the runner-up was Marie Muniz.

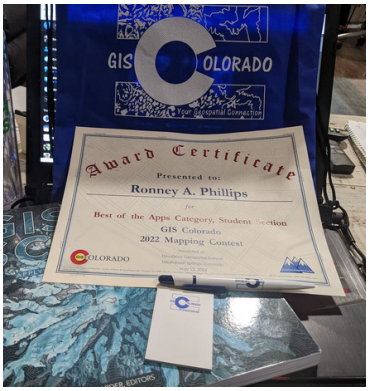
# STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND HIGHLIGHTS, CONTINUED

At both UNT Scholars Day and the GSA & SER undergraduate research symposium, **Cody Kimpton** presented his research poster "All Roads Lead to Polluted Air? Particulate Matter Accumulation by Live Oaks on UNT Campus" about the particulate matter (PM), or pollution, accumulation on leaves of live oaks and comparing the amount of PM on the trees near roads against the amount of PM on trees further from roads. With help from Shritha Gayathri, Jennifer Ellis, and Dr. Alexandra Ponette-González, Cody collected and analyzed the data he used to make his poster. Presenting was extremely fun for Cody (after he got over the presentation jitters) and he learned a lot, both from people commenting on his research and from listening to other students present their research. Both Scholars Day and the GSA & SER Research Symposium were great experiences, and Cody would encourage other students to participate in upcoming years.



**Sarah Pettyjohn** is an undergraduate at UNT and plans to graduate in Fall of 2022. This summer, Sarah is participating in the Texas Parks Field School with Dr. Matthew Fry, where she will be exploring and studying state and national parks with fellow students. Shortly after, Sarah will go to San Francisco for the Sustainable Groundwater REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates) internship for nine weeks. The REU program promotes research experiences with undergraduates in areas that are funded by the National Science Foundation. Sarah will be living on campus at San Francisco State University, and working with Dr. Erin Bray, an associate professor at the university, on a research project involving river and groundwater processes. This experience will provide Sarah with academic and professional development.

**Ronney Phillips**, who studied with Dr. Lu Liang as an undergraduate student (and will enter our master's program in the fall!), recently won the Student App Category in the 2022 GISCO Mapping Contest, hosted by GIS Colorado. According to Ronney, his project was created out of the frustration of few air quality sensors in Denton County, Texas. The county only has one EPA-approved air quality monitor — he wondered, how will citizens truly know the qualities of their air? In his app, Ronney proposes a low-cost alternative to expensive EPA monitoring. The intended audience are the citizens of Denton County or any individual with an interest in air quality monitoring. The maps were created in ArcGIS Pro and further enhanced in ArcGIS Online. His research is ongoing, and he and a team led by Dr. Liang are currently placing low-cost monitors throughout Denton County to further understand spatiotemporal air quality change.




**Shritha Gayathri**, one of Dr. Ponette-González's students and also a student of UNT's Texas Academy of Math and Science, had the opportunity to conduct research on the effects of particulate matter accumulation on the health of live oak trees. Shritha believes it was an amazing experience overall, starting from learning how to sample and perform spectroscopy on leaves, to presenting her own research poster at UNT Scholars' Day and the GSA/SER Conference. Shritha had the chance to meet other talented researchers, listen to insights from knowledgeable professors, and share her findings to other passionate students. She is super grateful to have worked on this project alongside an amazing team, which consisted of Cody Kimpton, Jennifer Ellis, and Dr. Ponette-González. Her first year of research was one full of discovery, excitement, and learning, and she is looking forward to pursuing new projects and ideas in the future!

# ALUMNI PROFILE: NATALIE NAVA

**Natalie Nava** graduated from UNT in December 2021. She began her academic journey here after attending Collin College as part of her junior and senior years of high school. Natalie received a Bachelor of Science degree in Geography, plus a minor in communication studies, a legal studies certificate, and a sustainability certificate. Natalie owes a lot of her success in college and post-graduation to Dr. Paul Hudak (who was her Groundwater Hydrogeology professor during her last semester here). Dr. Hudak helped her and motivated her in more ways than any other professor that she encountered at UNT. His encouragement made her feel secure in who she was and who she was becoming.

Natalie did her undergraduate proposal and final project over the disproportionality of green spaces in parks in Cedar Crest versus University Park, which are both located in Dallas. She did some research trying to first find and list the advantages of green spaces and having them in close proximity. She then researched the differences in economic status, location, race, etc of each given location. Natalie also did some field work and went to each location several times to take pictures and measure distances in relation to the amount of parks and green spaces in those parks. Her results showed that there was a clear disparity between the two neighborhoods, being that University Park was primarily Caucasian, had one of the highest average salaries of the area, and had more than enough green space for those that lived there. In comparison, Cedar Crest (which was a low-income area) had more minorities, and a significantly less amount of parks and green space. At that point in her research, it was not really about finding the disparities between the two neighborhoods but more about what could be done to improve Cedar Crest. Read on to learn more about Natalie and her time here in the Department of Geography and the Environment!

**How did your experience in the Geography Dept. set you apart from your peers educated at other institutions?** I had never heard of this type of major as I had originally declared a different major and when I made the switch, I found that it catered more towards my interest in a career. I think the resources that were available to me, specifically speaking, were the staff who helped me accelerate my time at the university. Both Professor Hudak and Taylor Moore (Program Coordinator in the Anthropology Department) had a tremendous impact on how fast I was able to finish my degree. Every semester, I would speak to both of them and review the plan I had that allowed me to graduate in 2.5 years. Without them, I do not think I would have been able to graduate and excel in my college as fast or as much as I did.

**How did your bachelor's degree from UNT influence your career path?** For the majority of my life, I knew that I really enjoyed the environment and going into my major made me realize that I enjoyed the sustainability and conservation aspect of the environment especially in urbanized areas. I also have an interest in law school and given my major, I have deeply considered going into environmental law and that is something that I am currently working towards.

**Current place of employment, role and duties:** I currently work for the Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District (UTGCD) where we focus on water conservation in several counties in Texas. My primary responsibilities include collecting and interpreting property ownership information to process new water well applications, generating maps and reports, and scheduling and collecting data from public requests.

**What message do you have for current students?** Work hard and push yourself to be the best but remember to give yourself a break. Somedays, the workload and pressure may seem never ending but understand that it will pay off and life will find a way to work itself out. Imposter syndrome is very real, but you deserve to be there just as much as everyone else so give yourself some credit. Talk to your professors and get to know them, they are nice people. Utilize every resource that the school offers to help you get ahead. Finally, enjoy every second that you have in college because you will never get that time back. Spend as much time as you can getting involved and being around the people that love you because one day, you will all go your separate ways and college will only be a memory.

**Fondest memories as a student in the Geography Dept and in Denton:** As a student in the Geography Department, the fondest memory I created was in Dr. Alexandra Ponette-González's class. The majority of my college career was spent indoors and at home due to the pandemic. However the spring of 2021, I took a class with Dr. Ponette-González and we had a semester long project where we observed an ecosystem on campus with a partner. At the end of the semester, the class gathered in person (making sure to follow COVID-19 safety guidelines) and we walked around campus, having each set of partners present their respective ecosystem. It brought me happiness to see a class in person again after being online for so long. As a student in Denton, I joined a club called the Filipino Student Association my freshman year (Fall 2019). However due to the pandemic, I was not heavily involved. My final semester (Fall 2021), I began to be more present in the organization and I do not think there is a specific memory that I have but an overall love for the people and culture who took me in and made me feel welcomed is something I hold really close and associate with UNT.

## OTHER ALUMNI UPDATES

**Amanda McDaniel** graduated in 2015 with her BA in Geography. After graduating, she moved to Los Angeles and served a year with AmeriCorps helping address food insecurity in Orange County before beginning her graduate studies in urban and transportation planning at the University of Southern California. During her graduate studies, she held an internship with Los Angeles Metro, helping to plan new heavy and light rail corridors throughout the County. Amanda graduated with her Masters in Urban Planning (concentrations in sustainable land use planning and transportation planning) in 2019 and has since been working as a Transit Advisory Consultant with the global design and consulting firm, Stantec, based in their Downtown LA office. Amanda spends her days working on a variety of different bus transit projects across North America, helping to expand access to public transit and create more sustainable communities through zero-emission bus transition plans. When she's not working, Amanda loves exploring Los Angeles via public transit and taking her puppy, Laika, on long walks.

**Trey Price** (B.S. Geography - December 2007) is a Senior Project Manager/ Consultant with ESRI. He has been with ESRI for nearly 5 years and has spent this time working with electric and gas utilities across the world to help them implement exciting new GIS based technology (like the Utility Network, ArcGIS Enterprise and ArcGIS Field Maps) and also crafting geospatial strategies for large utility organizations. Trey's time at ESRI has included working onsite with organizations as far flung as Oslo, Norway or as near as Alexandria, Louisiana. Before ESRI, Trey spent 10 years working in GIS teams with several different electric and gas utility cooperative and municipal organizations across North Texas. Trey still lives and works from home in Denton and can be found playing surf rock music around town with The Denton Tarantinos, enjoying time on the Denton square with his wife and dog, or occasionally at a UNT basketball game cheering on the Mean Green.

# SPRING GRADUATES AND HONOR ROLL

On April 22, in lieu of an awards banquet, we hosted a Celebrating Student Success reception at the Elm Fork Exhibit Hall. It was wonderful to gather with students, faculty, and alumni and to recognize our honor roll students, graduates, and special awardees. Here are some pictures from the event!









**2021-2022 Scholarship Award Winners**

**Kanan Dave**
*Geospatial Technology Scholarship*

**Ashley Green & Ronney Phillips**
*Schoolmaster Outstanding Undergraduate Students*

**Zach Tabor**
*Schoolmaster Outstanding Graduate Student*

**Bachelor of Science Graduates:**
Christopher Bartee
Samuel Cicherski
Allison Cox*
Madeline Crawford
Jonathan Cupit**
Jessica Davis
Abigail Guevara
Garrett Jones*
Alexander Llanas
Aysia Muzquiz*
Hayley Otteson**
Ronney Phillips**
Marisa Stallworth
Amon Stewart
Trevor Tanzola*
Leonardo Valdez
Kathryn Wiener

**Bachelor of Arts Graduates:**
Lauren Christy
Kierstin Marchal**
Maggie Mcculloch*
Abigail Molyneaux
Lily Sutton

**Master of Science Graduates:**
Kanan Dave++
Anna Grimes++
Richard Kirk++
Ciara Mason++
Leigh Messenger+
Jacqueline Torrecillas+

**GPA 3.5 and Higher * (Undergraduate)**
Giselle Arnold
Sydney Campbell
Edwing Castellon
Dayani Davilla
David Jett
Owen Mielke
Amanda Olvera
Megan Purcell
Abigail Rausch
Megan Ryan
Kate Sansom

**GPA 3.8 and Higher ** (Undergraduate)**
Rylee Babino
Geryka Delcambre
Evangeline Dwelle

**GPA 3.8 and Higher ** (Undergraduate)**
Morgan George
Ashley Green
Laine Hickle
Hannah Klapprodt
Ariana Lopez
Adrienne Marchal
Julia Myers
Julia Prokop
Alan Roach
Kyra Shank
Katelynn Swenson
Amasria Tisdell
Jenny Waters
Jack Webster

**GPA 3.5 and Higher + (Graduate Students)**
Agim Bardhi
Shwarnali Bhattacharjee
Kevin Le Maire
Noah Ray
Zach Tabor
Charles Tembo
Abigail Windham
Bryce Workings

**GPA 3.8 and Higher ++ (Graduate Students)**
Spencer Esmonde
Shelby Frank
Eric Gilmore
Marissa Greer
Erin Jones
Kamrun Keya
Benjamin Lyke
Anna Piasecki
Spencer Stegall
Kaitlin Stewart
Larry Voice

*A HUGE thanks to everyone who contributed to this newsletter: Ashley Green, Cody Kimpton, Shritha Gayathri, Sarah Pettyjohn, Ronney Phillips, Amanda McDaniel, Trey Price, and our wonderful faculty.* ***Have a great summer!***