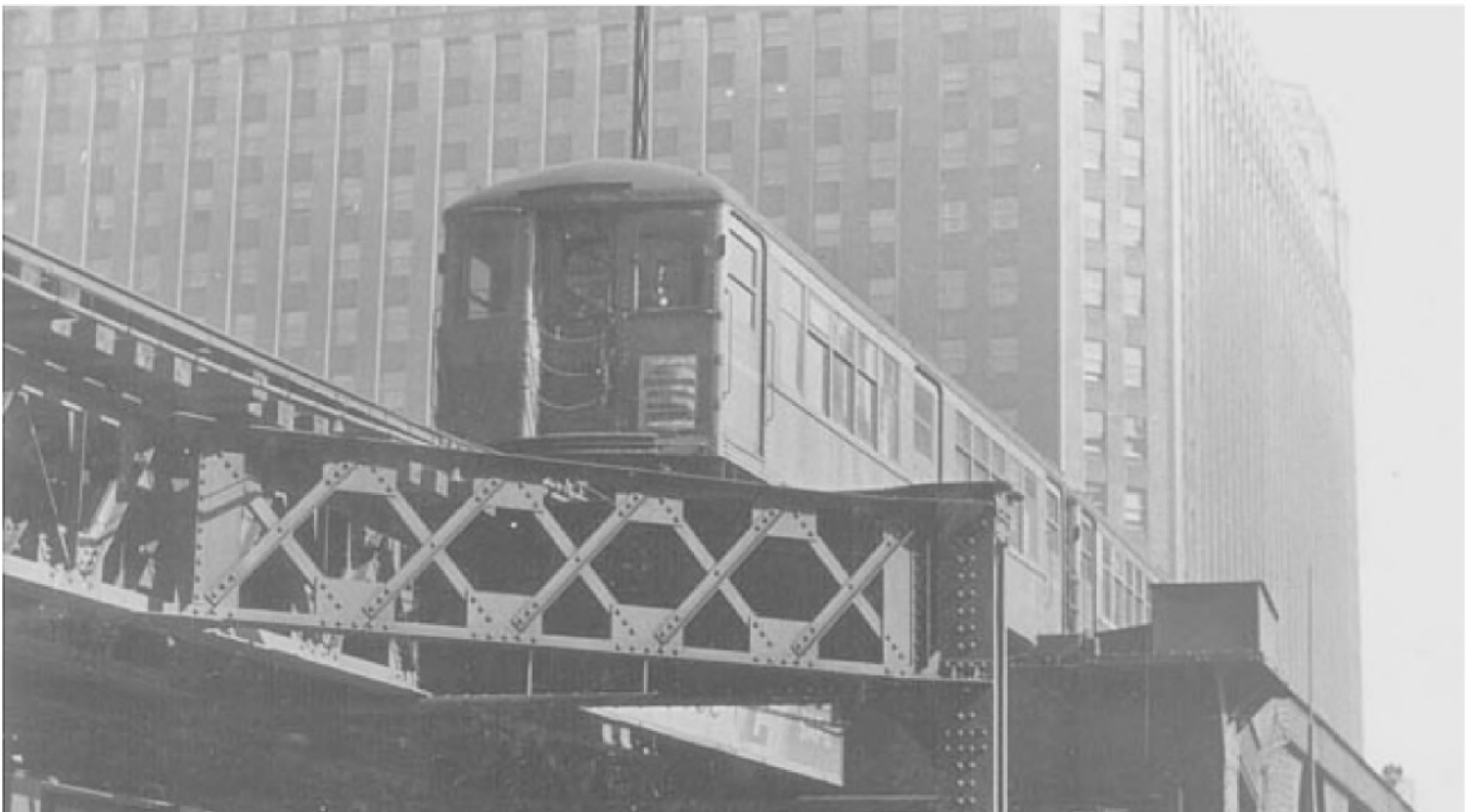


# GEOGRAPHY

## DEPAUL UNIVERSITY



Newsletter, Spring 2022

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**JOIN US!**

**May 17th from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

**for the**

**ILGISA REGIONAL MEETING**

**located at**

**The DePaul Center**

**1 E. Jackson Blvd, Room 8005**

**Chicago, IL 60604**

**for more info on cost, registration  
and agenda, click [HERE!](#)**

# CHAIR'S MESSAGE

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Alec Brownlow - Chair

I am sitting to write this, my first message as Chair of the Department of Geography, on April 11th, 2022:

Today is the first day of mask relaxation at DePaul, following two years of mask mandates. On the one hand, I can't believe it has been two years since I have seen the unmasked faces of students in class. It will be like being (re)introduced for the first time, even students with whom I am already familiar, if only as masked and keeping their distance. Or seeing my colleagues in the Department and around campus, some of whom I have only ever known or seen in person with a mask on. It will be like the lifting of a collective veil, revealing faces and expressions and smiles that we have all been missing and yearning to see and interact with for so long. On the other hand, of course, we will no doubt be holding our collective breath, both literally and figuratively, as we weigh our options and consider how close we wish to be together or how far apart we wish to remain. How has COVID influenced and resh-

aped our definitions and geographies of personal space? How have our own mental maps been transformed by two years of being six-feet apart? As geographers, questions like these carry enormous interest and meaning. And yet it upsets me to think that those areas of our brain that shape our individual notions of personal space and place have settled into COVID-induced rhythms and rules that will be difficult to reverse. I hope I'm wrong.

It has been a strange, wonderful, strangely wonderful, and wonderfully strange first year as department Chair. Separation and distance have hardly interfered with the success and productivity of our faculty or of our students and alums as you will see in the following pages. I invite you to read on.

To our friends, family, alumni, and loved ones currently in Ukraine or who are personally impacted by the invasion of Ukraine, we in the Department of Geography send you our love and solidarity and all hope for a quick, peaceful, and just ending to the violence. Please be well and stay safe.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy, and safe rest of 2022.

Be well, do good work, and keep in touch.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alec Brownlow', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Dr. Alec Brownlow  
Chair, Department of Geography

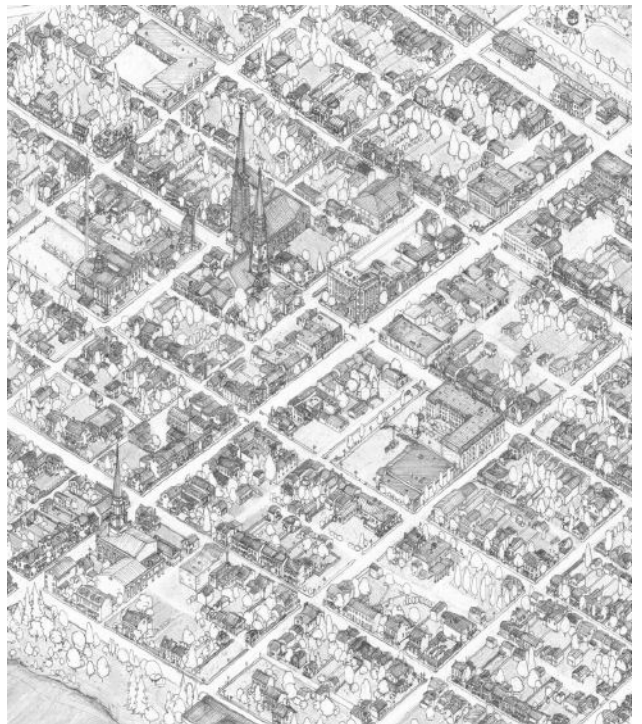


# DEPARTMENT NEWS

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# FACULTY NEWS AND UPDATES

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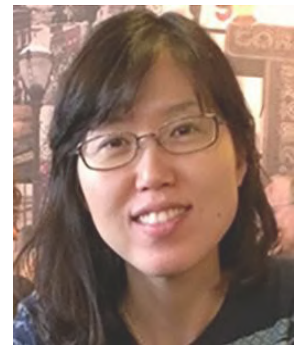


## Dr. Michelle Stuhlmacher

Dr. Stuhlmacher was accepted to the 2022 cohort of TRELIS (Training and Retaining Leaders in STEM Geospatial Sciences), which is sponsored by the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science. TRELIS is a unique model for professional development for women educators in the geospatial sciences. The program builds leadership capacity and skills to address career development, communication, conflict resolution, and work-life integration.

## Dr. Julie Hwang

In September 2021, Dr. Hwang's co-authored proposal to the National Science Foundation (NSF), entitled, "HDR DSC: The Metropolitan Chicago Data Science Corps (MCDC): Learning from Data to Support Communities," was awarded \$1.2 million. The aim of the five-year project is the development of an inter-institutional data-science curriculum and network that addresses community needs in the Chicago area. Students who took practicum courses in participating institutions can apply for the summer internship [here](#)



## Dr. Alex Papadopoulos



Dr. Papadopoulos was appointed UNESCO Chair for Threats to Cultural Heritage(s) and Related Activities.

The Chair is committed to the study and analyses of a broad spectrum of Anthropocene threats to cultural heritage(s). It provides consulting support to cultural institutions and governments at the local/national scales. Implementing body of the actions of the Chair is the Laboratory of Geocultural Analysis (GeoLab) of the School of Humanities of the Ionian University located in Corfu Greece. The Chair is staffed by an international interdisciplinary team of professors and researchers.

In March 2022, Alex learned that he had been selected as a 2022-23 Fulbright U.S. Scholar for his proposal, "Assessment and mitigation of Anthropocene threats to cultural heritage(s): A threats/risk mitigation spatial model and rubric." As part of his Fulbright US Scholar fellowship, Dr. Papadopoulos will develop and lead a seminar at the host institution - Ionian University in Corfu, Greece - on methods of studying Anthropocene threats to tangible and intangible cultural heritages. As a member of the UNESCO Chair on Threats to Cultural Heritage(s) Steering and Scientific Committees, he will also advise on research project development on cultural heritage protection and cultural diplomacy. His research focus will be on the refinement of the threats/risk mitigation model and rubric he introduced at the UNESCO Chair application stage.





## Dr. Michelle Stuhlmacher & Dr. Winifred Curran

Drs. Stuhlmacher and Curran received the inaugural UCCRI (Urban Collaborative Community Research Initiative) Grant for their proposal, "Designing for Just Green Enough: Greening without Gentrification."

Their study attempts to solve an environmental justice paradox: How can we improve equity in greenspace access without displacing the very residents the increased greenspace is intended to benefit? This tension is currently playing out in Pilsen, where 25th Ward Alderman Byron Sigcho-Lopez is looking to combat the prospect of green gentrification without sacrificing the benefits of potential new greenspace. The "just green enough" approach posits that it is possible to accomplish real environmental improvements without gentrification when communities are substantively engaged. To this end, the team will conduct a spatial analysis of greenspace in Chicago, calculating a vegetation index from satellite imagery to quantify both formal and informal greenspace, expanding upon previous efforts that have largely considered only formal greenspace (i.e., parks). Next, they will support the Pilsen community in conducting a community visioning workshop to provide qualitative information on what type of greenspace residents would like to see and where.

Finally, the team will synthesize the findings in a report for the community members (in English and Spanish) and an academic article. The Pilsen case will serve as a collaborative and interdisciplinary pilot project that can be replicated citywide, and beyond.



## Dr. Connie Johnston

The Department is pleased to announce that Dr. Johnston now holds the title of Senior Professional Lecturer at DePaul University. The distinction recognizes her years of service to the Department of Geography and her success in the classroom.



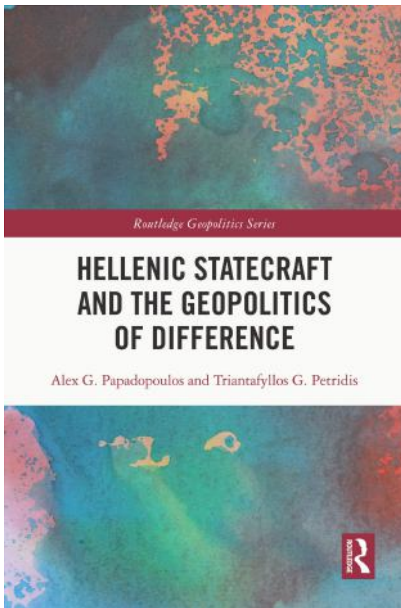
## Dr. Patrick McHaffie

Since stepping away from DePaul Geography in July 2019 I've been keeping busy between Evanston and Merritt Island. Perhaps the best thing about stepping away has been seeing our program evolve, grow stronger, and continue to set a standard of excellence in critical geographic research and teaching. Priorities shift and family is now more firmly locked at the top for me, so matters like schedules, grading, and commuting are slipping down the do-list. I am still occasionally teaching – doing GIS I in winter term was a great learning experience (for me ) since I had avoided the departmental shift to ArcGIS

Pro over the last two years. I can only hope it was the same for my 23 students. I do (on occasion) miss the interaction in the classroom more than I thought I would. I have stepped up my volunteer work with Librivox, making audiobooks of the millions of books in the public domain. Take a look at or download some of my work. I'll be back in the ORD over the next several months and may rarely be seen around the 3rd and 4th floors of Dietzgen – if you see me say hey and we can grab some coffee and catch up.



# PUBLICATIONS



## Dr. Alex Papadopoulos

Dr. Papadopoulos and TG Petridis. 2021. *Hellenic Statecraft and the Geopolitics of Difference*. London: Routledge.

The book explores competing definitions of Hellenism in the making of the Greek state by drawing on critical, historical, and geopolitical perspectives on sovereignty and territoriality and their intersection with difference and exclusion. By interrogating the Greek State's social constitution, Papadopoulos and Petridis shed light on Greece's past and present geopolitical intentions and strategies deployed at local, national, and European scales. Further, working through geopolitics - from below - Papadopoulos and Petridis provide insight on the relation of subaltern communities to state power, the ability (and (un)willingness) of the state to negotiate difference, and the different roles the State's nationalist- and civil society "turns" have played in regional geopolitics in the last 200 years.

## Dr. Connie Johnston

Dr. Johnston has published two book chapters and a book review. The first chapter, "Gut check: imagining a posthuman 'climate'", is in *Climate Change Ethics and the Nonhuman World* (Routledge, 2020, B.G. Henning and Z. Walsh, eds.), and utilizes post-humanist theory and recent research on gut microbiomes to challenge the idea of the unitary human subject. Dr. Johnston argues that changes to how we perceive our human selves is a first step in changing how we view the world around us and our obligations to it.

The second chapter, co-authored with independent scholar Julie Urbanik, is "Shared spaces, shared suffering: Exploring the effects of COVID-19 on urban animal advocacy organizations in Chicago and Kansas City, USA", and is in *COVID-19 and a World of Ad Hoc Geographies* (Springer, forthcoming, S. Brunn and D. Gilbreath, eds.). This chapter utilizes data from interviews with companion animal advocacy organizations in the authors' respective home cities to examine COVID-19 as a more-than-human phenomenon.

## Dr. Julie Hwang

Churchill R, Schneider K, Calamari J, Henderson R, Hwang S, Duncan C, Stachowiak A, Reddin C & Rosenblatt N (2021) Feasibility of an interdisciplinary intervention to promote balance confidence in lower limb prosthesis users: a case study. *Journal of Prosthetics and Orthotics*. doi: 10.1097/JPO.0000000000000325. Published July 2021.

Callahan S, Hwang S, Isler B, Wiedbusch E, and Jason LA (2021) Census characteristics of Illinois sober living homes: a Geographic Information Systems study. *Journal of Prevention and Intervention in the Community* 49(1): 93-102. Published March 2021.



## Dr. Euan Hague and Cassandra Follett

Hague, Euan; Follett, Cassandra; Schwieterman, Joseph; and Smith, C. Scott (2021) "The Development of COVID-19 data dashboards in Illinois: Interactive tools for municipalities and public health professionals," *Illinois Municipal Policy Journal*, vol. 6(1), 1-22.

## Dr. Winifred Curran

Curran, W. 2022. Saying "Yes" to what?: YIMBY and urban redevelopment in Chicago. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*. 46(2): 296-300. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-2427.13063>

# STAFF NEWS AND UPDATES

## A New Face in the Office

Hello Everybody!

My name is Owen Bomba, and I'm the new student worker for the GEO department! Not only am I new to my job as a student assistant, but I am also new to DePaul University itself. After two years at the Illinois Institute of Technology studying civil and architectural engineering, I transferred to DePaul. During my first semester at IIT, I took a Geodetic Science course which introduced me to GIS and many other concepts of physical geography. As I continued to learn more about architecture and immerse myself in my new home of Chicago, I found my love for geography - particularly its role in urban planning and design. After my bachelor's degree is complete next spring, I would like to pursue the Master's Degree in Sustainable Urban Development here at DePaul.

I love my new home at the Geography Department, and I have enjoyed meeting many new geographers (both students and faculty) since last fall! And if I have yet to meet you, stop in the office and say "hi!"

Owen Bomba



My sister, Lainey (right), and I in San Francisco this past spring break.



On the horse in front of Fabulous Freddie's Italian Eatery in Bridgeport.



My friends, George, Sarah, Danny (left to right) and I after the "Marias" concert this past February.



Reading a book at Myopic Books in Wicker Park.

# CURRICULAR NEWS AND UPDATES

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## Geography Joins with Computer Science to Develop a New Multi-Disciplinary BS Degree

Over the past year, the Department of Geography (College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences) has worked closely with the Department of Computer Science (College of Digital Media) in the mutual effort to bring into closer relationship our combined interests in computational methods, computational and spatial reasoning, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The result is the new Computer Science (CS)+Geography (GEO) Bachelor of Science (BS) degree, to begin enrollment in Fall 2022.

The CS part of the CS+GEO BS curriculum will provide students training in fundamental computational problem-solving skills including thinking abstractly, applying formal logic and mathematics, developing algorithms and data structures, and reasoning about and developing software systems at different levels of abstraction. The GEO part of the CS+GEO BS curriculum will provide students training in Geographic Information Systems and digital mapping, spatial analytics, and spatial reasoning to explore phenomena, relationships, and processes that have spatial patterns and distributions. Students in the CS+GEO BS will have a unique multidisciplinary combination of critical intellectual, technical and creative skills that will set them apart.

The program will provide students with a coherent and complete education in each field and prepares them to become:

(1) software developers with an exceptional expertise in GIS and other application areas of geography and, more broadly, the social sciences, as well as

(2) social scientists with expertise in geographic research methods who can leverage and develop technology-based solution to social science questions.

A CS+GEO BS graduate will be ideally suited for many positions requiring knowledge of geospatial technologies that refer to tools contributing to the geographic mapping and analysis of the environment and human societies, including GIS. Since the CS+GEO BS program incorporates the core of the CS BS degree program and the core of the GEO BA degree program, graduates of the program will also be well-prepared to pursue a graduate degree in either field.



# GIS LAB/GEOTECH UPDATES

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Hello, I'm Cassie Follett, GIS Coordinator for Geography! I handle the GIS infrastructure and other support for GIS on campus. We have been making some exciting plans for GIS classes and research on campus.

On campus, the department has a GIS lab for students and higher level GIS classes equipped with hardware and software to support GIS analysis with 16gb of RAM, and video cards, Xeon processors, with dual monitors. Nonetheless, GIS hardware requirements get steeper each year as new techniques and needs push GIS software and hardware to their limits. We're planning to upgrade these machines to be even better than before and open new possibilities to meet demands of tasks like 3D modeling and Deep Learning, but COVID and supply chain issues have caused computer hardware shortages around the world. We are trying our best to keep our GIS hardware and software updates ahead of the curve rather than being reactive, but in the meantime, we are being creative and innovative in some other directions and have spent the last year expanding our field survey and GPS capabilities. We recently acquired twelve tablet PCs (Samsung S7 Notebooks) for fieldwork and data collection, and an Arrow+ professional survey grade GPS with submillimeter precision.

These tablet PCs and our new GPS will allow upcoming classes to do some precise data collection for research and teaching purposes. We plan to expand our adoption of tablets even more in the coming years so that they can be deployed on field trips, study abroad trips, and classroom demonstrations of survey work to meet entire classrooms rather than students having to share devices or take turns.

In terms of software, the department has a Site License with ESRI which includes most ArcGIS products and extensions, as well as other products by the company such as the 3D modeling and urban planning software, CityEngine. This last software, CityEngine, is something I'm putting a lot of focus on in my freetime. It's a very powerful tool for urban-focused modeling and city planning. I'm learning the ropes so that I can lead some workshops for others on campus coming soon.

In May, for the first time since COVID, we're hosting the ILGISA conference! So set your calendars for the May 17th ILGISA regional conference. I'm planning to time some workshops on campus a week before aimed at students, faculty and staff on Web GIS, using ArcGIS Pro, and some other topics.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes there has been a lot of work that is less visible than shiny new hardware. We have built out ArcGIS Online across campus that ties in with campus credentials. Anyone who is a student of DePaul can access GIS software using their campus connect credentials. We've also worked with IS to build out a Virtual Lab that allows students to do GIS whether they have a powerful home computer or not, and have also obtained laptops for loan for students who do not have computers at all to be able to use during classes.

This has been a great success in accordance with DePaul mission and values, making our courses more accessible without barriers to students of different backgrounds. Given the great success of these initiatives, we are planning to give more focus on this in the future, making it easier for any student on campus to get the most out of our classes.

Cassie

# STUDENT NEWS

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Jennifer Ovist

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Leahy Travel

IGS Outstanding Senior

West Lakes Presentation

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# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

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## Jennifer Ovist

HOMETOWN: Chicago, IL

MINOR(S): Computer Science and User Experience Design

### **What class/faculty member introduced you to Geography at DePaul?**

My first introduction to geography was Religious Geography in Winter Quarter 2020 with Professor Samson. I took it as a religion credit when I was a computer science major and it completely changed the way I looked at the world. I didn't know geography could be studied in that way and I loved every second of that class.

### **How, when, and why did you make the decision to pursue Geography as a major at DePaul?**

Professor Samson actually recommended I look into GIS. I had wanted to switch my major, but I didn't really have any direction or ideas of what I wanted to do. I did some more research and by Spring of 2020 I was a Geography major.

### **What GEO courses and/or GEO faculty have been especially influential? Why?**

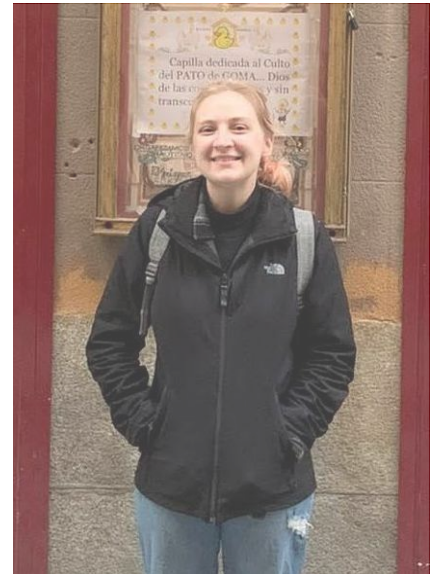
One of my favorite courses I've taken was Knowledge, Place, and Power with Dr. Curran. I think that course challenged me in ways I needed to be challenged, and forced me to learn more about different approaches to the discipline but also about the ways that I approach geography. It was very insightful. I have also had the pleasure of working with Dr. Hague on various projects and internships and it has been such a great experience. I've learned a lot about working with people (particularly those who are unfamiliar with GIS) and I really value the work experience. Every professor I have had has been nothing but helpful and supportive and I'm very grateful.

### **In your opinion, what has been the greatest benefit(s) to studying Geography at DePaul?**

I think one of the best things about DePaul Geography is how small and close-knit the department is. You get to have better connections with your professors and classmates and it's such a nice environment. I also think DePaul being in Chicago also opens the door to so many wonderful opportunities, particularly in classes like Community GIS or in programs like the Student Urban Research Corps. You are presented with so many wonderful opportunities to build your skills and help out community organizations, and that was something that I was grateful to have as a part of my college experience.

### **Do you have a favorite memory/memories, or highlights, of your time in the department?**

It's hard to pick highlights, but one highlight for me was completing the Capstone presentation at the AAG Conference because that class pushed me in so many ways. It was one of the most rigorous and challenging classes for me, but the reward of it all was amazing. After being remote for my entire time as a Geography major, it was also nice to be in a small tight-knit group like that.





## Do you have, or have you begun thinking about your post-graduation plans?

I currently have an internship with the CTA, which I have been enjoying. I know I want to get more work experience before I consider grad school. I think I want to continue working in public transit, but I'm just excited to see where the wind takes me.

## What words of wisdom do you have for someone considering Geography at DePaul?

Becoming a part of DePaul Geo was one of the best decisions I have ever made. Geography opens up so many doors and I would highly recommend that anybody who is interested give it a chance.

# AWARD WINNERS

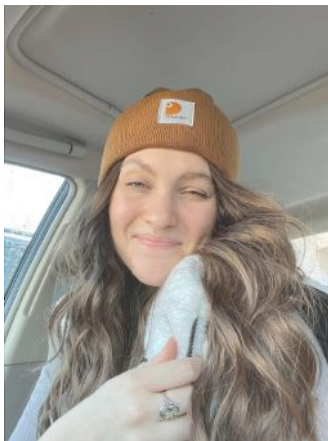
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The 2021-22 school year began as one of uncertainty and no small amount of nervousness as students slowly began to return to campus. As faculty, it was unclear how students would respond to the classroom after more than a year of remote learning. As the following student award winners demonstrate, our Geography students emerged as determined and as creative as ever. The 2021-22 academic year was a banner year for our GEO majors, whose successes and honors were myriad and well-deserved.

Kudos to them all!

## Leahy Travel Award

Recipients of the annual Betty Leahy Travel Award are juniors and senior Geography majors who have demonstrated excellence in their studies and in their service to the department. They are ambassadors of the Department, sent each Spring to experience the annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers (AAG). This year's recipients of the Leahy Travel Award, individually and collectively, are representative of the continued excellence of our Geography students at DePaul. Regrettably, the in-person annual meeting of the AAG, scheduled to be held in New York City, was cancelled and rescheduled as remote-only due to covid. No doubt a disappointment for everyone; but congratulations nonetheless to all of this year's Leahy Travel Award recipients!



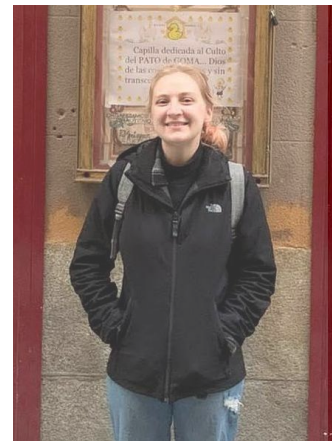
Catherine Hodge



Grace DelVecchio



Jolie Hackney



Jennifer Ovist

## IGS Outstanding Senior Award



Each year, the Illinois Geographical Society (IGS) recognizes outstanding senior Geography majors from across Illinois. The award is presented to students who have demonstrated excellence in the classroom and commitment to serving their home Department and the discipline of Geography. Congratulations Sammy Curley (pictured left), recipient of the 2022 IGS Outstanding Senior Award for DePaul University!

## West Lakes Presentation



(top row, starting left) Quinn Comprosky, Mara Morgan, Catherine Hodge, Jolie Hackney (bottom row, starting left) Jennifer Ovist, Sam Curley, Jenni Nguyen, Luigi Cutolo

The 2021 joint meeting of the East Lakes and West Lakes Regional Divisions of the American Association of Geographers (AAG) was hosted by the Department of Geography & Planning at the University of Toledo. Unfortunately, for the second year in a row, the annual meeting was held remotely for safety precautions due to COVID. Nonetheless, the University of Toledo and the AAG organized and delivered an outstanding meeting.

Geography's eight capstone students all developed and presented papers at the meeting, representing a wide and diverse range of topics and methodologies. Congratulations to each of them for a job well done! And further congratulations to the Department's four award winners who, combined, swept the undergraduate paper presentation award category! This was a first, not only for DePaul Geography but for the West Lakes Regional Division!

ent's four award winners who, combined, swept the undergraduate paper presentation award category! This was a first, not only for DePaul Geography but for the West Lakes Regional Division!

### Presentations and Awards

**Quinn Comprosky**, Making Archaeology More Accessible: A Case Study of the Use of Google Earth Engine on the Isle of Arran

**Catherine Hodge**, The geographical implications of medication-based treatment for opioid misuse: Case study of differential access to methadone and buprenorphine in Chicago, IL

**Mara Morgan**, Mutual Aid: Contextualizing Geographies of Radical Care

**Jolie Hackney**, The discursive construction of Skid Row, Los Angeles: Public policy and the mobilization of the unhoused community

### 1st Place, Undergraduate Paper Category

**Sammy Curley**, Dog Parks and Gentrification on Chicago's south side

### 2nd Place, Undergraduate Paper Category

**Jennifer Ovist**, "Fantasy Landscapes": Rural Cemeteries as Placemaking and Social Reform

### 3rd Place, Undergraduate Paper Category

**Luigi Cutolo**, La città della Monnezza: The story of waste, mafias, politics, and environmental justice in Naples, Italy

### Outstanding Undergraduate Presentation

**Jenni Nguyen**, Chronic Illness & Energy Negotiation: Revisiting Cultural Ecology in Exploring New Avenues for Disabled Geographies

# SURC FELLOWS

Four geography undergraduates were among the fifteen graduate and undergraduate students selected to be part of the initial Student Urban Research Corps (SURC) cohort. SURC students work with faculty on projects that help meet the needs of community organizations and Jennifer Ovist, Lily Baird, Christopher Impellizeri and Alejandro Arakelian began working on SURC projects in Winter 2022.

Supervised by Professor Euan Hague, the four students produced interactive maps for the Chicago Coalition for Immigrant Mental Health, the Chicago Furniture Bank, ONE Northside and World Chicago. Each project needed a great deal of data clean up prior to making the maps, but the experience enabled the geography majors to advance their GIS skills and understanding of Chicago's urban geographies while serving community organizations.

Anna Mangahas, Director of Membership and Training at ONE Northside said that, "Our student researcher [Lily Baird] from DePaul created a unique and much needed Chicago map that shows multiple layers of city, state and federal ward and district boundaries on the same map so that we could better see the overlap of people on our organizing turf."



(clockwise from top left) Lily Baird, Jennifer Ovist, Alejandro Arakelian, and Christopher Impellizeri

Mangahas continued, "It was a complex thing that pulled geographic info from different sources. After hitting dead ends with accessing this kind of map – one didn't even exist – SURC came through for us! The back and forth process of receiving the map and sharing feedback was open, transparent and fun because the map improved ev-

ery time we saw it. Now, the maps that were created will help Chicagoans see where they are living in Chicago's many-layered, political landscape."

Lily Baird, who worked with ONE Northside agreed that the experience was rewarding: "Over the past few months of my work with SURC, I have been able to develop my collaboration skills alongside other SURC members, gain hands-on experience with industry-relevant technology, such as ArcGIS Online, and produce meaningful deliverables for a variety of different community organizations throughout Chicago. SURC is such a wonderful opportunity to work with other students who also share a passion for geography while accomplishing truly impactful mapping and data work that addresses community needs."

To view the Chicago Furniture Bank Project, click [HERE](#)

*The Student Urban Research Corps is housed in The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and is made up of graduate and undergraduate student researchers. Corps members work as part of the multidisciplinary Urban Collaborative and participate in data collection, management, and analysis, including the creation of data visualizations, for urban and community-based studies and projects. Corps members also take part in Urban Collaborative-sponsored events, talks, and small group discussions with faculty and their peers.*

*The SURC provides up to 15 students project-based opportunities for hands-on experience working with community partners who have reached out to DePaul seeking research assistance. The SURC gives students a unique opportunity to use their technical and analytical skills to support these community partners while also building real-world experience and competencies with the support and guidance of faculty and staff from the Urban Collaborative.*

*SURC members contribute to projects brought to the Urban Collaborative by community organizations and municipalities. Such projects might include demographic and neighborhood analyses, program evaluation, mapping, and the like. As a member of the Corps, DePaul students will work on these requests, producing deliverables to share with and present to those making the request. Members of the SURC also attend 2-3 Urban Collaborative events per academic quarter.*



# The Advisor's Corner

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Greetings, GEO!

Your advisor, Corban, here to share some tips on navigating this great college experience!

First, I can never say this enough—learning how to navigate the world of egos and emotions—yours and that of others, is what part of the college experience is all about! You have this great playground, DePaul, to practice, explore and deepen your understanding of 1) your ego and emotions, 2) other people's egos and emotions and 3) how to deftly navigate the two jumbling around the same spaces.

As you develop your aptitude for navigating egos and emotions, I urge you to also pay attention to what life after college could have in store for you. That's why most of you are here, after all DePaul is the gym. We have all the great equipment you need to prepare yourself, but we can't do the workout for you.

Career prep is more than just earning a college degree. A career is partly you (your ego – the value you associate with your career in relation to you, and part emotion – how you feel about your job tasks and the people at work) and partly your employers (their egos and emotions). Thus, it's a relationship! And like any relationship, the dynamic is complex and varied based on the people involved. You can learn about how to “woo” your prospective future employer and you can learn how to be a great “partner”/employee to said employer by attending Career Center workshops and joining a Career Community.\*

You need to also learn as much as you can about yourself. To be a good partner and employee, you need to be good at being you and understand what that means. The college experience is filled with opportunities for personal growth and development, so **MAKE THE TIME** to participate in immersion trips\*\*, serve on the executive board of a student organization, attend university workshops and events, and explore your purpose.\*\*\*

Check out the short article\*\*\*\* linked below on a meandering career path, too. Figuring **YOU** out takes effort and intentionality. DePaul is a great place to facilitate this growth, so let's grow together!

Corban Sanchez

## Helpful Links

- \* Career Community
- \*\* Immersion Trip
- \*\*\* Explore Your Purpose
- \*\*\*\* Meandering Career Paths

join us on: **Friday, May 20th at 9 AM**  
for a virtual event with:



**Dr. Isabelle Anguelovski**

Director, Barcelona Lab for Urban Environmental Justice  
and Sustainability, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona



scan here to register  
for this event!

## **Dividing Access to Nature or Greening by Removing and Segregating?**

Dr. Anguelovski is the director of BCNUEJ, an ICREA Research Professor, a Senior Researcher and Principal Investigator at ICTA and former coordinator of the research group Healthy Cities and Environmental Justice at IMIM. She obtained a PhD in Urban Studies and Planning from MIT before returning to Europe in 2011 with a Marie Curie International Incoming Fellowship. Her research examines the extent to which urban plans and policy decisions contribute to more just, resilient, healthy, and sustainable cities, and how community groups in distressed neighborhoods contest the existence, creation, or exacerbation of environmental inequities as a result of urban (re)development processes and policies. Since 2016, she is the PI of a five-year ERC-funded project called GreenLULUs which examines green inequalities in 40 cities in Europe, the US, and Canada. She is the research group coordinator and co-leader of the research lines "Environmental and Climate Gentrification" and "Urban Climate Risk, Infrastructures, and Justice" at BCNUEJ.



**Hosted and Sponsored by DePaul University Department of Geography**

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for Questions, please email: [geography@depaul.edu](mailto:geography@depaul.edu)

# ALUMNI NEWS

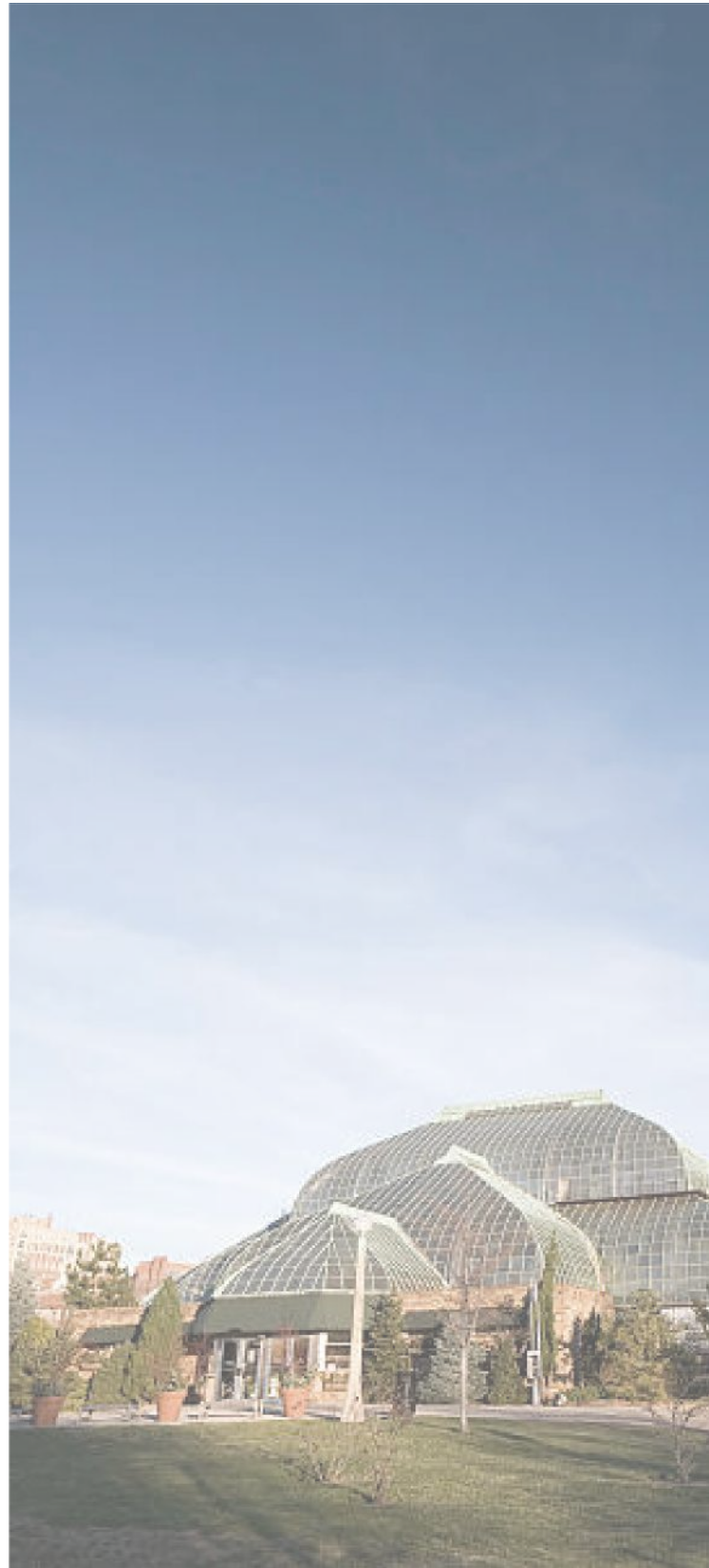
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# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## Susi Acord

**Graduation Year:** 2009

**Current Employer & Position and/or Graduate Program & Institution:**  
Development Coordinator at the Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park, since May 2021

**Past/Recent Employer(s) and Position(s):**  
Rural Action  
Media and Communications Director - 2013  
Sustainable Forestry Administrator - 2009  
AmeriCorps VISTA - 2008



### **Describe briefly the work/studies you are currently involved in or pursuing:**

Schoodic Institute is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit partner of Acadia National Park. Together, we manage the largest of 17 National Park Service Research Learning Centers on our 100-acre campus. As the park's primary partner in science and education, Schoodic Institute scientists work in close partnership with park staff to conduct important research related to resource management and climate adaptation, we share the stories of park science with 3 million+ annual visitors to Acadia, provide transformative experiences for learners of all ages, and professional development opportunities for early-career researchers and educators interested in conservation.

As the Development Coordinator, my role is to build awareness, engagement, and support for the Institute's work. I work closely with the CEO, Board of Directors, and staff on fundraising efforts and oversee donor communications and marketing for the organization.

### **Where do you see (or hope) your path leading in the short and/or long term?**

I have really enjoyed working at nonprofit organizations for the past 14 years. I hope to stay in this sector and love being able to help connect people with causes they care about and can support. We all do our part to help make the world a better place and the way I have helped to do my little bit is through my career.

### **How has your DePaul Geography degree and/or experience in the department contributed to your current path?**

During my time at DePaul, the Vincentian ideals of promoting peaceful, just, and equitable solutions to social and environmental challenges and serving underserved and underrepresented communities was impressed upon me. Studying geography helped me understand the intersection of people and the environment with depth and experiences I'm not sure I would have gotten through another department. I changed my major to Geography after taking classes that were electives with Dr. Sioh and Dr. Curran - Both were incredibly passionate about the topics they were teaching and it rubbed off on me. I became interested in rural economies, planning, policy, and sustainability. All of the subsequent classes I took furthered my interest in these areas and pursuing nonprofit work in rural communities.

### **Do you have a favorite DePaul GEO memory or story?**

When I decided to change my major to Geography, Dr. McHaffie was the Department Chair at the time. We talked for about two hours about whether the Geography Department and its people would be the "right fit" for me. He wanted to make sure I understood it was a small yet eclectic bunch before switching majors. As I stared at the electric guitar in his office I thought, *this is kind of a weird conversation, but I dig it and these sound like my people!*



# Rasa Whittaker

**Graduation Year:** 2019

**Current Employer & Position and/or Graduate Program & Institution:**  
Geospatial Engineer at ESRI, since July 2019

## **Describe briefly the work/studies you are currently involved in or pursuing:**

I currently work at Esri within the Professional Services Department in the St. Louis office where I work primarily as a configuration specialist: putting together Esri apps for customers that have a specific workflow in mind but aren't sure on how to best implement it. One of my favorite parts of my position is that my work varies across industries including transportation, federal and local government, natural resources, and emergency management. I love exploring how different organizations utilize their geospatial data. My role involves a mix of technical work and consulting, so my days are a mix of learning and trying things out, and making recommendations based on those learning experiences. Through my time with a customer, I answer questions like "what's the best way to set up data schema if I want to collect information out in the field?", "I have data that shows x, y, and z. How do I best display this in an app to make sense of it?", and "I want an app to analyze these patterns. Can you put that together for me and teach me how you did it?" My work has exposed me to lots of different projects varying from inventorying guardrails using field collection applications, to analyzing traffic crashes in a user-friendly web app, to monitoring wildfires, to showing the progress of a grape vineyard during harvest season (my favorite so far ). I also answer more traditional troubleshooting questions like "why can't I join this layer with this other one?" which I have to admit aren't my favorite, but they do build my confidence in understanding the ever-changing world of Esri tech.

## **Where do you see (or hope) your path leading in the short and/or long term?**

I thoroughly enjoy my position with Esri and plan to continue my career here. I'm currently transitioning into more of an advisor role for customers where I'll get to build a relationship with them and help grow their use of GIS in a way that is



accessible, approachable, and meaningful. In the next couple of years, I can see myself growing in the consulting position further and helping out with larger scale growth like helping customers develop a geospatial strategy for their entire organization. Outside of Esri, I volunteer for the forester of the park across the street from me (Tower Grove Park if you're ever in the area!) as a GIS consultant. This is also something I see pursuing more heavily in the future outside of my 9-5: helping nonprofits (specifically environmentally-related ones) where it makes sense. I'm continually looking for more ways I can include my passion for connecting humans to the environment around them as part of my daily work and something I'd like to incorporate more of in the future.

## **How has your DePaul Geography degree and/or experience in the department contributed to your current path?**

By far the most meaningful experiences at DePaul were the internships, jobs, and volunteer opportunities I was exposed to as a student. Through those opportunities, I was able to parse out what I liked and didn't like about each one, putting me in a confident position when it came time to search for a job. I had a firm understanding of the type of work and work environment I wanted to pursue. Additionally, these opportunities solidified connections with the professors in the department, often leading to even more experiences! More specifically, working as a TA for



Nandhini's class helped grow my confidence in my technical skills and was probably the position that most applied to my current position, but my work with FEMA (thank you Prof McHaffie!) and the National Vegan Museum (thank you to Dr. Johnston!), and real estate research with Dr. Hague (thank you!) all helped me understand the type of work that best aligns with my interests, skills, and growth.

**Do you have a favorite DePaul GEO memory or story?**

Too many! But if I HAVE to pick one, I'd pick the capstone class. The feeling of accomplishment of pride after presenting work that I cared about to a group of strangers was unbeatable. I loved getting to know my classmates through traveling to Wisconsin together and watching them excel at the projects they presented. It was truly a team bonding experience, even though our work was all individual.

**Anything else that you wish to reflect on?**

My advice to current GEO students is to make connections with your professors! They are all fantastic and have great connections to help students apply what they're learning into the real world. Take advantage of office hours, study for the tests, and make the projects required in class interesting to you. The effort into classroom work goes a long way in opening up opportunities. Expand your perspective as much as possible! There's lots of surprises out there waiting for you! The first step is making yourself available to them. Also, feel free to connect with me on LinkedIn! I love connecting with DePaul students and answering questions or providing more of a specific glimpse into the "real world."

**Ian Tobin**

**Graduation Year:** 2009

**Current Employer & Position and/or Graduate Program & Institution:**  
Director of Planning & Advocacy at The Magnificent Mile Association, since 2021

**Past/Recent Employer(s) and Position(s):**  
Executive Director at the Old Town Merchants and Residents Assoc.  
Associate Planner at Houseal Lavigne Associates  
Planner at Valerie S Kretchmer Associates  
Mayoral Fellow at the Office of the Mayor

**Describe briefly the work/studies you are currently involved in or pursuing:**

I was brought on to the staff of the Magnificent Mile Association just as Chicago was beginning to re-open in 2021. Our job as an organization was to bring shoppers and tourists back to Michigan Avenue. Over the course of the summer, we held a number of place-making activations to welcome people back. In 2022, we are looking to build further onto that success with additional place-making activations and attractions. A lot of my day-to-day includes managing this large business district. This ranges from everything from public safety issues to maintenance to reviewing zoning. Keeping good relations with member businesses and City Hall is a key part of these responsibilities.



That takes care of today, but what about tomorrow?

With the district in flux, we are left with an opportunity to re-imagine what Michigan Avenue could be. At the beginning of 2022, we announced that we are embarked upon a long-term planning process to rethink how this Avenue could look in the next 100 years. The four guiding pillars of the planning process will revolve around people, place, experience, and technology. My job will be to work with our district leaders and our urban planners to bring this plan into existence.

**How has your DePaul Geography degree and/or experience in the department contributed to your current path?**

My degree in geography from DePaul University gave me a solid foundation for grad school and into my career. Aside from learning hands-on skills like GIS, geography taught me how to think critically and synthesize information in order to understand underlying currents that change our cities. Geography taught me how to see the ways in which planning feeds into the bigger picture and then how to do it in a more equitable and sustainable way.

**Where do you see (or hope) your path leading in the short and/or long term?**

In recent years, I have fallen back in love with photography and videography, which was an interest of mine growing up. It is an exciting and engaging medium to work with and can convey so much information and great stories. After working in the planning field for about a decade, it is abundantly clear that getting planning knowledge and diverse perspectives into the minds of citizens influences our elected officials and civil servants to make better planning decisions. In the future, I want to tell stories about urban planning and cities through photography and videography to inform the public.

**Do you have a favorite DePaul GEO memory or story?**

Attending the AAG conference in Las Vegas was so much fun. The limitless amount of blackjack and roulette aside, I had a great time nerding out at the conference. So many great topics being discussed all day long and fantastic day trips. I got out of my urban comfort zone and spent a day out in Death Valley with a bunch of physical geographers and learned a lot.

**Anything else that you wish to reflect on?**

I feel very lucky to have studied geography at DePaul. Not only is the faculty made up of smart, funny, generous, awesome people, they know how to tap into the surrounding city as a major resource for learning and experience. By using Chicago as our laboratory, they bring geography to life in front of our very eyes.

**Thesis/Dissertation Title and description:**

*Chicago Community Land Banks (CCLB): The Next Step in the Micro-Market Recovery Program (MMRP)*

*Like many municipalities across the country, Chicago saw their foreclosure filing rates dramatically increase across the city during the Great Recession of 2007-2009. Record high home prices quickly fell losing half if not more of their value. Some historically disinvested communities that seemed poised to finally experience economic growth became some of the hardest hit communities in Chicago.*

*Various levels of government responded to this crisis with programs that sought to get foreclosed properties back to productive use, which resulted in mild success. Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel created the Micro-Market Recovery Program (MMRP) as an initial response to stop the hemorrhaging in distressed communities. This paper proposes the first step into recovery: a City-run land bank. The paper details how the landbank would be governed, recommended property acquisition strategies, and strategies on how community-based planning processes can drive investments made by the landbank.*

# ALUMNI UPDATES

## Darcy Lydum - BA 2010



I'm located in Houston, TX and I work as a Director of Project Management at EDP Renewables. I've been in Texas since graduating in 2010, in Houston for 10 years and at EDPR for eight years. I began doing GIS work in Oil &

Gas, then took an entry-level position at EDPR in September 2013 and since then have worked my way up at a growing company in a growing industry. If any of your students want to know anything about pursuing a career in Renewable Energy, I'd be happy to speak to them! It's been a very rewarding career so far.

## Michael Cullen - BA 2021



I'm currently working on a masters degree in Architecture at the UIC School of Architecture. It's been quite a jump, but I actually use a lot of my undergraduate knowledge (correctly, I hope).

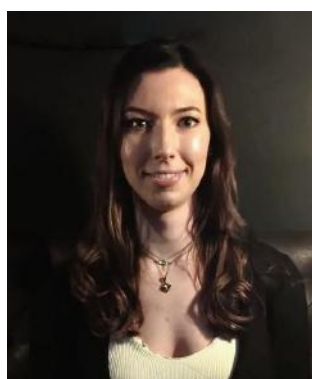
## Thomas Peacock - BA 2014



I am currently living in Chicago's Ravenswood neighborhood and have been working at Walgreens for the past 6 years in the Market Planning and Research department. As a Manager on the Enterprise Location Intelligence Te-

am, I help provide a geographic lens to the broader corporate strategy. Gets to work with ArcGIS products daily to map store locations, trade area demographics, and for asset protection related to extreme weather events.

## Emily Flock - BA 2017



After graduation, I did a year of contract work for Apple Maps in Sunnyvale, CA (Silicon Valley). I was then hired by the GPS company, TomTom, where I initially worked as a Quality Specialist manually inputting temporary road closures in the Traffic and Travel Information (TTI)

product unit. With TomTom, I took a temporary assignment as Team Supervisor in TTI, relocated to Łódź Poland (3rd largest city in Poland), where I managed half of Łódź team and all of Tokyo and Seoul teams. I recently concluded my work at TomTom as Associate Project Manager in the Autonomous Driving product unit in Łódź.

## Aaron Faulkner - BA 2013



After graduation, I moved out to Seattle for a few years. It was great to get out and hike with my dog, and enjoy an outdoorsy lifestyle! I was lucky to work for a few mapping companies, and even landed a role at Expedia! I was recently

accepted into the University of Copenhagen's (Denmark) Masters of Science program in Geography and Geoinformatics, where through the course of the Masters and, fingers crossed, the PhD, I hope to pursue researching the effects of Climate Change on people, from a humanistic perspective, eventually lecturing in Human Geography.

I am beyond excited for this next chapter, and grateful beyond words for the confidence I gained through DePaul Geography. Thinking back all the courses, the capstone course, and Political Ecology in particular, really influenced my decision to keep studying, and share the insights geography with anyone who'll listen.



## Ethan Heick - BA 2020

After interning for eleven months at Reyes Beer Division in their Location Intelligence Department while finishing up my degree requirements, I have reached the other side and have entered the workforce. For more than six months, I have been working as the GIS Specialist for BBJ Group, an environmental engineering and consulting services firm located in Chicago's Loop with branches nationwide. As the sole GIS Specialist for a company with sixty other employees across multiple departments, the role I have is critical. Thanks to the knowledge obtained from geography courses at DePaul, I create static maps, figures, webmaps, and webapps that directly contribute towards the success of my company.

## Maggie Carson – BA 2020



I moved to Chile in February 2021 and got a job here teaching English to adults online with a language institute. I'm in Viña del Mar, which is about 1.5 hours west of Santiago. We have a view of the Pacific from our balcony which

is pretty cool. And I definitely recommend visiting some time!

## Michael Bussey – BA 2015



After graduating with my Geography & Political Science degree I was able to work in some interesting fields, Electrical Engineering, Telecom, Aviation and sustainability all the while freelancing as a photographer/film-maker.

I quit my job because 9-5s aren't for me and I wanted to travel more. Now I do freelance GIS/creative work and am currently focused on selling my services to the government.

## Kevin Stock – BA 2020



I have been working for Esri as a Senior Desktop Support Analyst since December 2020. I assist clients with problematic technical workflows that are presented within our Desktop Software: ArcMap, ArcGIS Pro. A list of technical topics we

cover on the daily: Raster and Vector Datasets, Python/ArcPy Script Errors, Setting up Enterprise Geodatabases, And the Multitude of Geoprocess Tools our Software Encompasses. I recently have received word from HR that I am allowed to work remotely permanently and will soon be moving to Olympia, Washington. I am more than appreciative of the opportunity to work for Esri, as well as working from the comfort of my home.

## Jeff Lind – BA 2009

I received my Masters in Urban Planning and Policy from UIC in 2020. I am currently teaching 8th Grade Humanities in Edgewater, Chicago.

## Erin Slater – BA 2018



After I graduated in 2018 I started working for J.P. Morgan in their Tax Credit Investment Group here in Chicago. My group specifically invests in LIHTC properties all around the country and I oversee the construction and financing of the projects.

It has been a neat experience applying what I learned about affordable housing in urban planning classes at DePaul with the added challenge of learning the finance aspect of it, but I've been here for over three years and I really enjoy it. I appreciate the Geo Department's curriculum for setting me up for success post graduation!

## Amy Holloran – BA 2015



Since graduating in 2015 with a BA in Geography and International Studies and a GIS Certificate, I've held several roles related to Data Analytics and Geotechnology. I took an entry level Analyst job right after graduation with a large

distribution company in the Chicago area. It wasn't specific to GIS, but I knew they would benefit if I showed them these tools. The field is so new that opportunities can be created if we look. It also gave me the chance to enhance my overall data skills and finally earn a decent living after struggling for several years. I taught myself QGIS since they didn't have Esri, and I used whatever other digital mapping tools I could find to demonstrate concepts and provide results they weren't otherwise able to see. This led to a couple of promotions within this company, ending at the Senior Analyst level in 2017 where I was bringing a geographic lens into high-level statistical modeling projects.

In late 2017, I was recruited by an engine company looking for someone to start their regional Analytics work, and they too loved that I brought GIS with me. I was very happy in my other role, but this one gave me the opportunity to work fully remote while still doing similar work. I spent two years traveling the world while working for this wonderful company. I felt this lifestyle allowed me to learn balance, meet amazing friends, practice my other passions, like music, and see incredible sights.

Toward the end of 2019 I was recruited back to the original company for an exciting purpose - They decided to start a GIS initiative and asked if I would lead it. It was a huge honor and has been intensely challenging, especially during pandemic, yet equally rewarding work since. My role is Manager of Location Intelligence where I get to work across at least 10 different departments and functions, including Supply Chain and Operations, Sustainability, Data Science and Analytics, and Communications, to name a few. I've learned so much about things like IT, software contracts and

platforms, people and team management, new analytics techniques, tools, visualizations, and interactive maps. I was privileged to be on a panel at the Esri UC this year as well where I spoke to some of this work.

## Cassandra Allen – BA 2016



I'm working as a federal employee for the Bureau of Land Management Arizona. I live and work in Phoenix at our Arizona State Office. I am the Web & Mobile GIS lead for the Arizona Bureau of Land Management. I've been working here for almost 5 years now. I started as a GIS and FOIA intern and have worked my way up.

## Robert Haug – BA 1999



After DePaul, I received my MA in Modern Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Michigan in 2002, and my PhD in Near Eastern Studies in 2010. From Ann Arbor, I came to the University of Cincinnati's Department of History where I am now Associate Professor of Islamic World History. In 2019, I published my first book *The Eastern Frontier: The Limits of Empire in Late Antique and Early Medieval Central Asia*. While I'm in a History department and my graduate work was all in area studies programs, I've very much stuck with my Geography roots. My dissertation and first book were focused on frontiers and involved a large dose of historical geography. Throughout grad school and up to the present, I still put my GIS skills to use (mostly for cartographic purposes rather than spatial analysis).

## Matt Pietrus – BA 2013



I recently graduated from New York University with a Masters in Urban Planning. My thesis, "Where does new construction happen? Examining the relationships between new development and land use regulations, physical

site constraints, and ownership in New York City," applied an econometric regression to predict how likely a parcel of land is to develop, and was recently published in the Wagner Review. I also recently received his AICP accreditation, proving I am, in fact, capable of planning. I continue to work at the NYC Department of City Planning, where I focus on how zoning and land use regulations apply to individual development sites and at a citywide scale in response to various economic forces and socioeconomic trends.

## Grant Garstka – BA 2004



Currently, I live in Denver and work as the GIS Data Administrator for Community Planning and Development at the City and County of Denver. I have been in this position for almost three years. I have tried to focus on moving the

planning department away from static plan maps to interactive web map apps. We are also focused on better mapping and understanding equity concepts and populations vulnerable to displacement. Before that, I worked in the Technology Services department for about 5 years. I have a mapping portfolio at [www.grantgarstkamaps.com](http://www.grantgarstkamaps.com).

I am married, have 1 kid (3.5), and child number two arrived in January 2022. I would be remiss to live in Colorado and not say that I enjoy getting out to go hiking and camping.

## Carlos Medina – BA 2014



Shortly after graduating in 2014, I moved to Dallas. I landed a job with the City of Dallas in 2015 as a GIS Technician within the Economic Development dept. I quickly realized within a few months of working there that it wasn't a fit. Very slow

paced and black/white in terms of tasks. It was nice building maps on future developments and being apart of that process, but I knew it wasn't a "fit" long term. I wanted something more that leveraged my creative and research skills.

I moved on from the city in 2016, to a commercial real estate firm as a GIS Analyst then promoted to Research Manager in 2019. This position allowed me to leverage my geospatial skills and urban planning concepts learned at DePaul. I was tasked to integrate ESRI/ArcGIS to the Research team for mapping purposes, site selection, trade area analysis, etc. My time at Weitzman made me realize that site selection and the CRE industry is where I wanted to be. The concepts of the geo program allowed me to successfully shift broker and asset management colleagues in regards to big data and location intelligence when it comes to site selection. It is not all about radius rings, standard demographics, mapping, etc. There are paradigm shifts especially now with the human movement data.

Earlier this year, in June, I joined Pizza Hut (Yum Brands) as the Development & Market Planning Manager. In this role, I work with franchisee's to identify new trade areas for new stores or relocating existing stores to a more successful trade area. I leverage all sorts of data sources like mass mobile data, consumer spending, demographics, predictive forecast models, etc.

I will say that without the concepts learned at DePaul and guidance given from professors, I would not be where I am today!



## David Semitekol – BA 2013; SUD MA 2015



I currently live in Milwaukee and for the past few years have been working for Mid-America Real Estate, serving as their GIS/Technology Manager.

My education at DePaul helps me communicate to my teams the impact of demographics and how we can use GIS to find a better understanding of an area and create a story from the data.

## Delaney Klundt – BA 2020; MA SUD 2021

I have been working for Choose Chicago, the city's marketing and tourism bureau, in the neighborhood strategy department. We work on a variety of place making and economic/community development initiatives. One project we manage is the Chicago Alfresco Program, an initiative from the City to provide more open spaces for communities. I also do a lot of data analysis for our neighborhood partners. I was recently accepted into Chicago Cityscape's Data Equity Cohort for this year.

## Erna Hrstic - GEO Minor 2021



In April 2022, Erna was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study social capital and farmer's markets in ethnically-diverse urban Bosnia. Congratulations Erna!

**Paths to Reconciliation: The Role of Farmers Markets in Building Social Capital**

As Bosnia continues to grapple with internal strife and economic adversity, understanding how different ethnicities interact with one another in the marketplace offers a glimpse at future reconciliation efforts in the region. Is it possible to emphasize a common culture of generosity and mutual aid in these spaces? What steps are necessary to do so?

To examine these questions, ethnographic methods of participant observation and in-depth interviews will be used to gather rich, empirical data to discover the ways in which pijace might facilitate positive interethnic relationships. More specifically, this project will compare the experiences of shopkeepers and customers of farmers markets in three cities: Brcko (in the multi-ethnic Brcko District), Sarajevo (the capital and most diverse city in Bosnia with Bosniak, Croat, and Serb populations), and Mostar (majority Bosniak and Croat). "Paths to Reconciliation" has two components: data collection with informants at pijace and GIS analysis of pijace. Three months will be spent in each city where participant and site observation will be conducted at physical research sites. At each respective site, the distribution of ethnicities within farmers markets will be plotted to determine whether there is a correlation between earnings, a form of privilege, and ethnicity. The completion of this project will result in detailed participant observations and two maps for each city. By interacting with locals in the informal market and supplementing observation with geographic technology, this study may discover the ways in which farmers' markets create social capital.

## Ashley Ambuehl Lachot - BA 2010



Ashley lives in the Phoenix, Arizona area where she is Operations Manager for Arm, an industry leader in AI and mobile computing. Ashley and her husband just welcomed their second child, Kendall Jade, in December 2021.

## Alyssa Sklar - BA 2020



Alyssa is currently enrolled in TWO Masters programs at the University of Michigan. She recently completed her master's capstone project at the School for Environment and Sustainability entitled "Characterizing the Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) to Elevate its Role in Mitigating Climate Change and Creating a Healthy and Vibrant Community in Ann Arbor, MI."

In summary: The project sought to provide descriptive analyses of the Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) focusing on identifying turfgrass, delineating native forest fragments, and classifying trees by genus using machine learning and remote sensing techniques to aid in elevating the role of UTC as an ecosystem service, mitigator of climate change, and a guiding factor in stewardship actions.

Additionally, Alyssa was more recently accepted into the Masters program of Digital Archives, Library Science, and Data Curation at UM's School of Information.

This summer, Alyssa will be moving to California where she has accepted a position as an Industry Solutions Marketing Intern at Esri.

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# DePaul University Department of Geography

