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Department News

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Provost Alex Enyedi and College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Dean Lisa Bond-Maupin cut a ribbon to mark the official renaming of the Department of Geography, Environment, and Spatial Analysis (photo by Ryan Sendejas).

Department Celebrates New Name

Following a year of careful planning and negotiation, our department officially changed its name from Geography alone to Geography, Environment, and Spatial Analysis (GESA). The move was undertaken to better communicate—to potential students and our majors' future employers—the breadth and dynamism of our field. Far more than maps and place-name memorization, Geography is an integrative, critical way of approaching the world, one that transcends traditional disciplinary boundaries that separate the study human systems from study the physical environment. We develop and apply the latest technologies in mapping and geospatial analysis—highly prized on the job market—to help find potential solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges, such as climate change and urban displacement. Ours is a forward-looking, twenty-first-century discipline, which is now more clearly reflected in the new moniker: Department of Geography, Environment, and Spatial Analysis.

To celebrate its rebranding, the department organized an official renaming ceremony on November 8, 2019. A crowd of friends from the campus and
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“What I am recognizing about this department is it’s about transcending boundaries.”

cahss dean lisa bond-maupin

community joined our faculty, staff, and students for the celebration. GESA faculty and students engaged the guests with a short-but-packed program highlighting some of the excitement and curricular innovation accompanying the renaming, including the founding of *Humboldt Geographic*, faculty-student research collaborations, and service learning through community partnerships such as the Eureka Survey, a new collaboration with the Eureka City Council.

Special words of praise were delivered from Provost Alex Enyedi and Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Lisa Bond-Maupin. The two administrators together ceremoniously cut a ribbon signaling the department's rechristening. “I am struck by the idea of boundaries,” Bond-Maupin said, as quoted in the *Lumberjack*. “What I am recognizing about this department is it’s about transcending boundaries. I’m struck by that.”

Finding a Home in Geography at HSU

jenna ver meer

Two words come to mind when I think of Humboldt State University: beautiful and, well, affordable. HSU is the California State University campus with the most inexpensive tuition, and, coupled with the diverse and breathtaking environment, it is no secret why these two factors help guide people to Humboldt. In fact, in a short survey sent out to current Geography majors, responses regarding choosing HSU primarily revolved around the environment or affordability of the university. What's more, many Southern California natives (myself included) choose HSU because it's the farthest you can get while maintaining in-state tuition and is radically different from the culture of SoCal.

But why Geography?

I discovered my own passion for Geography by taking a Human Geography course in high school. It showed me that Geography encompasses far more than simply memorizing names of countries (though that is still important). To study Geography is to study whatever you want, really. Geographers care about climate change and considering the ways in which sea level rise can cause irrevocable change in coastal communities. Geographers care about ethics and culture, and, for example, how something such as colonialism has a lasting effect on the physical and cultural landscape. In fact, next time you're taking a walk through Founders Hall, be sure to check out all

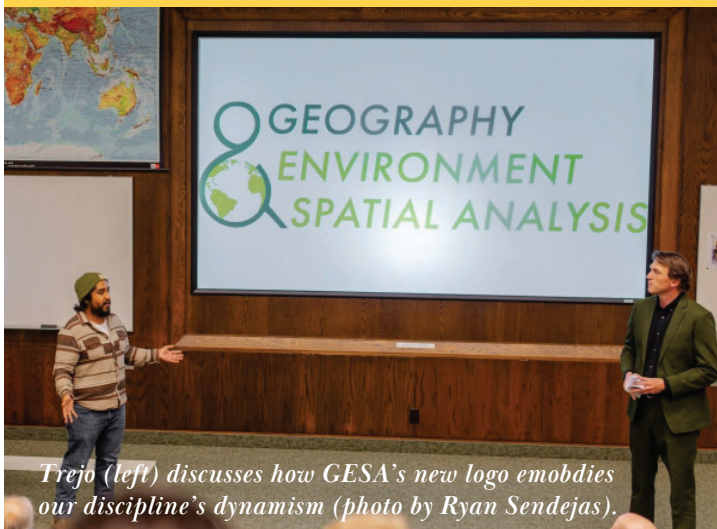
the beautiful posters adorning its walls. They constitute a body of work belonging to GIS analysts, cartographers, and human and physical geographers (who all reside in the department).



Ultimately, geographers care about the planet. We care about how it works and how it is affected by us humans. While the broadness of Geography may seem a bit intimidating, the only real limits are the ones you give yourself.

HSU's Department of Geography, recently renamed the Department of Geography, Environment, and Spatial Analysis (GESA), is here to help you in finding the path you'd like to go. We're a small department, meaning it is far easier to develop lasting connections with professors and peers, which can be helpful in the nebulous, post-undergrad dimension. When I decided to move twelve hours away from home to a small town I had never lived in and with people I did not know, I was understandably nervous. But since moving here, I have experienced a welcoming sense of community that is wholly Humboldt. It is my hope that more people experience this, as it has only served to deepen my love of the landscape.

It may sound romantic, but when I took my first geography class here at HSU, I felt at home.



Trejo (left) discusses how GESA's new logo embodies our discipline's dynamism (photo by Ryan Sendejas).

Trejo Designs Sleek New Logo

The department has a sleek new logo. The creative talent behind the distinctive new look is Gil Trejo, who has won accolades nationally and regionally for his cartographic design (see his map Southern California on Page 32). Workshopping with GESA faculty, Gil crafted the clean, sharp design to embody our discipline's forward-looking dynamism. The prominent ampersand (&) is key in communicating that Geography can be whatever you want to be, eclectically cross-disciplinary, but held together by a concern for the Earth and spatial patterns on its surface.

CALIFORNIA GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY FIELD EXPERIENCE

dr. nicholas perdue

As I walked across the parking lot of the In-and-Out in Santa Nella, I silently congratulated myself on the incredible time I was making out on the road. We were well ahead of the second van on our route to Big Bear Lake, a 14-hour drive from HSU campus to the Southern Sierra mountain town. Moments later I stood looking in disbelief at a pile of shattered glass, trying to take inventory of what had been stolen from the van during our quick lunch stop.

In April 2019, Dr. Matthew Derrick and I took 22 students to the California Geographic Society (CGS) conference, our annual trip to a professional geography conference as part of the Geographic Field Experience course. The CGS, established in 1947, hosts an annual conference featuring scholarship from students, professors,

and geographic professionals in a supportive environment. Since the inaugural conference, CGS has hosted meetings across California, in both urban and rural settings, reflecting the varied landscapes of California, and has approximately 350 attendees every year.

The CGS conference is an opportunity for students to present original research, participate in a research poster session, and compete in both print and digital map design competitions. HSU students have historically performed exceptionally well. And no more so than this year: HSU students landed seven of the thirteen total undergraduate awards for excellence in geographic research and cartography (see side bar on next page).

The importance of student participation in the conference extends beyond competition and



The gaggle of HSU geographers take time from the celebrating at the post-meeting awards banquet in Big Bear to pose for a group photo in remembrance of a their CGS conference experience (photo by Ryan Sendejas).
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2019 CGS AWARD WINNERS

ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATION

First Place

Danielle Kirkland-Shatraw

"Cartography and Resistance:
Counter-mapping in Palestine"

TOM MCKNIGHT PHYSICAL SCIENCE AWARD

First Place

Kevin Greer

"Determining the Factors
that Contributed to the Carr Fire"

PAPER MAP PRESENTATION

First Place

Gilbert Trejo

"The Southern California Coast"

Second Place

Riley Bouen

"San Gabriel Mountains"

DIGITAL MAP COMPETITION

First Place

Leo DiPerro

"Historical Physical and Architectural
Features of Eureka, California"

Second Place

Brian Murphy

"An Overview of Watersheds
in California"

Third Place

Summer Owen

"The Impact of the Thomas Fire"

recognition, however, as CGS provides critical professional development for students and opportunities to connect with students and professors from other institutions. CGS brings together graduate, undergraduate, and community college students from across the state and provides a vital space for HSU Geography students to demonstrate the strength and critical engagement of their work to a broader audience.

CGS also affords the opportunity for students to build community within the geography program. When I walked out to the van to see the window broken, I feared the student morale and the trip as a whole had been ruined before we had really even begun. I immediately feared the worst and expected the students to become dejected and disillusioned with the whole experience. Instead, the students found strength from this incident of vandalism, joking around as we taped a cardboard box over the broken window and extending an incredible amount of support to those students who had property stolen and had to redo their presentations at the last minute. Throughout this disruptive and unsettling part of the trip, the students demonstrated incredible resiliency and clearly showed how important community, collaboration, and support is to academic achievement and success.

As I sat at the awards banquet watching HSU students win competitive awards for their geographic research and cartography, I was proud of what they had achieved and impressed in the character they demonstrated during the whole process. Knowing what our students are capable of makes me all the more excited for CGS 2021 in Oakland.



Humboldt in the house! HSU geographers get started with the post-conference banquet. Summer Owen (far right) probably doesn't suspect she is about to win an award for her digital cartography.

ANNUAL DEPARTMENT POTLUCK CELEBRATES END OF 2018-19, STUDENT SUCCESS



2018-19 GESA STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

**DR. JOHN L. HARPER
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**
Noah Schwerdtfeger

**HERRING GEOGRAPHY
SCHOLARSHIP**
Gilbert Trejo

**DR. JOSEPH S.
LEEPER GEOGRAPHY
SCHOLARSHIP**
Leo DiPierro

**SUZANNE WETZEL
SEEMANN GEOGRAPHY
SCHOLARSHIP**
Samuel King

WEBB BAUER AWARD
Danielle Kirkland-Shatraw

**NATIONAL COUNCIL
FOR GEOGRAPHY
EDUCATION AWARD**
Casey Thompson

KOSMOS AWARD
Brian Murphy

**GAMMA THETA UPSILON
INTERNATIONAL
GEOGRAPHICAL HONOR
SOCIETY INDUCTEES**

Kevin Greer
Ivy Huwald
Miyako Namba
Ryan Reger
Casey Thompson
Gilbert Trejo
Jenna Ver Meer

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hsuges](https://instagram.com/hsuges)

Humboldt State in the *California Geographer*

HSU SCHOLARS,
FACULTY AND
STUDENT ALIKE, HAVE
PUBLISHED RESEARCH
IN THE PEER-REVIEWED
JOURNAL 14 TIMES

amanda kamlet

My senior capstone research, a collaboration with GESA Chair Matthew Derrick, examines how the study of California Geography has changed over the past 60 years as seen in the pages of the *California Geographer*, the flagship peer-reviewed journal of the California Geographical Society. Derrick and GESA colleague Rosemary Sherriff served as co-editors of the journal for 2016-19. Derrick is the sole current editor. Judy Walton, HSU Geography faculty in the late 1990s and early 2000s, worked as the journal's editor for two issues (2002-03).

A total of 14 articles from HSU scholars have published in the *California Geographer*. First was a 1983 publication by William Daniel and Joseph Leeper titled "The Social and Political Impact of Applied Technology: The Case of Remote Sensing." Daniel was a professor of Political Science and Leeper was the chair of Geography. The next HSU publication appeared in 1990, a piece by Leeper titled "Humboldt County: Its Role in the Emerald Triangle." In 2002, Paul Blank, HSU Geography professor, published "The 'Big Map': A Hands-on, Shoes-off Tool for Geographic Education."

Over the past decade, HSU Geography undergraduates



GESA faculty Derrick and Sherriff served as co-editors of the California Geographer three years (2016-19).

started publishing in the *California Geographer*, in line with the department's ramped-up emphasis on original student research and collaboration with faculty. In 2012, two publications from HSU Geography undergraduate students appeared in the *California Geographer*: "How Space and Place Influence Transportation Trends at Humboldt State University" by Sara Matthews and "Cultural Clash in the Netherlands? Exploring Dutch College Students' Attitudes toward Muslim Immigrants" by Kirsten Ray. In 2015, two more publications by HSU students: Nicholas Burdine's "Power and Perception: Homelessness and Soft Policies of Enforcement in the Arcata Community Forest" and Antonio Valdes' "The Sutter Buttes: Attachments to the Land."

The 2017 issue of the *California Geographer* featured two more publications from Humboldt State: "Hidden in Plain Sight: Cannabis Cultivation in the Emerald

Triangle" and "Mapping Marijuana Cultivation Sites and Water Storage in the Redwood Creek Watershed, Southern Humboldt County," a piece of scholarship conducted by Cristina Bauss in GEOG 411: Senior Field Research.

The year 2018 was a high-water mark for HSU in the *California Geographer*. Five publications from HSU students and faculty graced the journal's pages. Among them were two Geography student-faculty collaborations, including a piece by Nathaniel Douglass and Nicholas Perdue ("Mapping Arcata Neighborhoods and Perceptions") and another by Eric Fowler and Derrick ("Yipster Gentrification in Weird, White Portlandia"). The issue also included solo articles by Perdue ("Direct Experience in the American West") and Derrick ("Field Notes from Kyrgyzstan: Bishkek's New Religious Landscapes"), along with a book review by HSU English faculty Janelle Adsit.