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Faculty and Staff

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faculty & staff updates

LEENA DALLASHEH is an associate professor and faculty member of GESA, History, and Politics. She is also affiliated with the Environment and Community master's program. Her research focuses on modern Palestinian and Israeli history, and her teaching covers



the broad social and political history of the modern Middle East, as well as histories of colonialism, settler-colonialism, and decolonization. She teaches classes on these subjects for all three departments. She is working on developing a graduate course on colonialism

and decolonization and an undergraduate course on revolutions and social change in the Middle East. She has published in peer-reviewed academic journals and books, as well as in newspapers and academic blogs (in Arabic, Hebrew, and English), along with interviews to films and podcasts on her areas of expertise.

She also continues to be committed to advancing a better understanding of Palestine/Israel and the Middle East. She regularly organizes and participates in events, on and off campus, on this topic. Most significantly offering the film series Let's Talk about

the Middle East, which has run for four years now.



MATTHEW DERRICK serves as GESA department chair. In addition to his administrative duties, he teaches Human Geography (GEOG 105) and Political Geography (GEOG 363). He serves, with Nick

Perdue, as faculty advisor for *Humboldt Geographic* and the Humboldt Geographic Society, the department's student club. Matthew is the faculty leader for Global

Humboldt, a first-year learning community for the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. He continues to serve as affiliated faculty with the International Studies and Environmental Studies programs. This year he was elected to represent HSU on the Academic Council on International Programs (ACIP), a body consisting of one representative from each CSU campus that advises the Chancellor and assists in the development of international programs that serve the CSU system. Matthew was part of an HSU delegation that traveled to Oaxaca, Mexico, in summer 2019 to explore collaboration opportunities with the region's largest university; he is planning a summer study abroad program for GESA majors and other HSU undergraduates. Matthew maintains an active role in the California Geographical Society (CGS), elected in 2019 as its president. In the summer of 2019, along with GESA colleague Rosemary Sherriff, Matthew completed his third year as co-editor of the *California Geographer*, the flagship peer-reviewed journal of CGS; he now serves as the journal's sole editor. Matthew has begun publishing research from his sabbatical year in Kyrgyzstan. The first article to emerge from his sabbatical research, co-authored with Stanford graduate student Jake Zawlacki, investigates nomadic traditions that persist among contemporary urban Kyrgyz in Bishkek, the capital city of Kyrgyzstan;

it appeared in the January 2020 issue of *International Journal of Russian Studies*.



AHMED FOGGIE is an east coast native who moved to Humboldt County upon completion of his master's degree from the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) in 2017.

He received a degree in history, where he focuses primarily on the French Atlantic, especially in regards to the transatlantic slave trade as well as the Haitian Revolution. Though grounded in history, Ahmed uses a geographic lens in his academic approach. While in graduate school, he contributed to the Texas

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Herstory project, an interdisciplinary project that digitally mapped contributions made by women in Texas history. The project began his relationship with the digital humanities. Furthermore, he continued his exploration of the digital humanities as ArcGIS editor on the digital book *Lost in the City: An Exploration of Edward P. Jones's Short Fiction*, which explores the work of author Edward P. Jones as it relates to Washington, DC. One of the book's goals was to act as proof that language representing geographical locations can be brought to life using digital technologies. In both of his digital projects, Ahmed worked with

academics of various fields to further an environment of interdisciplinary thought.

LAURA JOHNSON, in her fourth year as a lecturer, is getting into the swing of regularly teaching Global Awareness (GEOG 300), International Environmental Inequality and Globalization (GEOG 301), and Nature, Culture, and Food (AHSS 108), a new Area E course

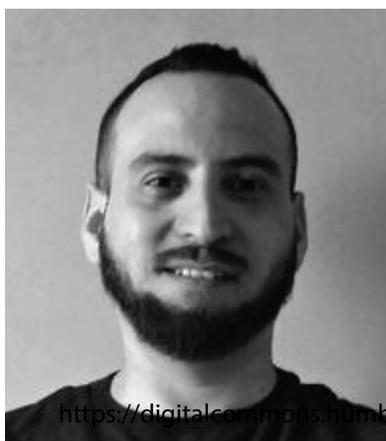
that she developed. AHSS 108 is also a part of Global Humboldt, a CAHSS first-year learning community under Dr. Derrick's leadership. Laura has been writing for literary journals and non-academic publications including the *Journal of Wild Culture*, *Taproot Magazine*, *Empty Mirror*, *LionsRoar.com*, *Resilience.org*, and *Permaculture Women Magazine*. Last spring she attended an Orion Environmental Writers' Workshop, co-sponsored by the Omega Institute, in Cave Creek Canyon, Arizona. More personally, Laura and Nick recently welcomed to the world their first baby, a little

girl named Cordelia. Laura has been on parental leave in this spring and will return to the department in fall 2020.

NICOLAS MALLOY teaches courses in the Geospatial Analysis curriculum for GESA as well the Department of Environmental Science and

Management. His courses include Geospatial Concepts (GSP 101), Geographic Information Science (GSP 270), and Intermediate Geographic Information Science (GSP 370). Nicolas earned a bachelor of arts degree from CSU San Bernardino, certificate of study in Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing from HSU, and a master of science degree from HSU. When not teaching, Nicolas also works as a consultant and subject matter expert on projects related to geospatial science and the development of geospatial educational materials. In 2015, Nicolas founded the Geospatial Institute, a company that promotes professional standards within the geospatial industry. He contributes open educational materials (OER) for publication on the Geospatial Institute website and YouTube Channel. His most recent publication, co-authored by Amy Rock, is *Geospatial Concepts: The Fundamentals of Geospatial Science*. Nicolas is an active member of several geospatial organizations, including the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association, the California Geographic Information Association, and the North American Cartographic Information Society. Nicolas serves on several committees at HSU, including the Geospatial Steering Committee, the Geospatial Content Committee, and the Geospatial IT Committee. Nicolas also serves on the Board of Directors for the HSU Institute for Spatial Analysis, Modeling, and Monitoring.

LUKE "TY" McCARTHY graduated from HSU in 2018 with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies and a minor in Geospatial Analysis. He joined the GESA team in the Fall 2019 semester, teaching Geospatial Concepts labs (GSP 101L); this spring he added labs for Geographic Information Systems (GSP 270) to his teaching repertoire. Before committing himself to full-time teaching this spring, Ty worked in the



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private sector as a Remote Spatial Analyst for a natural resources firm based out of Indonesia. His work primarily involved assessing risk in palm oil supply chains in Southeast Asia, specifically Indonesia and Malaysia. Ty's professional projects have ranged from developing an automated Risk Assessment on a database of palm oil mills using advanced geospatial information science programming all the way to writing and creating maps for reports regarding jurisdictional/regional approaches to managing tropical deforestation. Ty is preparing to pursue a master's degree in GIS Administration. The biggest



news in Ty's life is that he just became a father to a little boy named Orroyo!

SARA OBENAUER has been a lecturer at HSU since 2014. Originally from San Diego, Sara obtained her master's degree in 2013 from Humboldt State University in English with an emphasis on literature.

Sara has taught Native American studies and women's studies courses in the Critical Race, Gender and Sexuality program, weaving her interdisciplinary interests and her Pilipinx background into her pedagogical practices. In 2017, Sara's poem "Making Ube in Humboldt, CA: Summer 2016" was published in *El Mono Chapbook*. In this poem, the speaker makes ube halaya for the first time in Humboldt, far away from her family and ancestral homelands. In 2018, Sara and Gina Belton co-wrote and presented a paper titled "Neuvas Teorias: Seeking Liberation in the Borderlands between Story and Stillness" at Naropa University in Boulder, Colorado for the Society for Humanistic Psychology; in this paper the authors weave their narratives of intergenerational trauma, double consciousness, and unfolding liberation, posing avenues for healing by using collective wisdom and meditation practice. They also shared their lived experiences as Indigenous womxn navigating ancestral

and new territories simultaneously in academia and dharma communities. In 2019, Sara and Joseph Dieme, chair of World, Languages, and Cultures, designed a course called Reclaiming Indigenous Voices across the Globe. This course focused on international Indigenous scholars from West Africa, the Philippines, and the French Caribbean and covers themes of pre-contact, colonial history and its ramifications. Sara joined GESA in 2020. She is happy to be part of a department that makes her feel included and at home. She is teaching Nature, Food and Culture (AHSS 108). Sara has been weaving geography into her teaching and writing.

NICK PERDUE is an assistant professor in the Department of Geography, Environment, and Spatial Analysis and is a faculty member with the Environment and Community graduate program and the Geospatial Program. Over the past year Nick has co-edited a special issue of the *Humboldt Journal of Social Relations* on the theme of geospatial technologies in the social sciences, presented research on the geographies of permaculture at the HSU Zero Waste Conference, Cooperation Humboldt Post-Capitalist Conference, California Geographic Society, and as an invited speaker at Northern Arizona University. He also took eight students and presented at the North American Cartographic Information Society (NACIS) annual meeting in Norfolk, Virginia. Over the past year, Nick and Laura have continued to transform their home by converting their lawn into a native plant garden, planting fruit trees and perennial herbs, and installing a greywater system. The biggest transformation of their home, however, is the addition of baby Cordelia.

TONY ROSSI, capping a program he began in 2000, led the fourteenth and final Tibet field trip last summer. The class consisted of ten



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HSU undergraduates, two recent graduates and one community member. An HSU Geography alumnus, Tony began exploring China in 1977 as part of a Chinese History field trip from Monash University in Australia. Invited back to China in 1980 to teach, Tony and his wife Gail were mentioned in a 1988 *Life Magazine* issue as initially moving to Beijing to seek adventure and teach English. The following decade proved to be that and much more as Tony and his family found the experience a tremendous learning experience as they explored and documented China's vast and complex landscape. Returning to the US days before the crackdown in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989, Tony became a lecturer at HSU in the early 1990s. Applying much of what he had learned in the field, he developed a regional geography course on China. Responding to student interest, Tony proposed a summer field trip to China and Tibet, approved in the spring of 2000. That trip set a precedent for what became a signature learning experience for many HSU undergraduates. Student projects have ranged from wildlife surveys, botanical distributions, land use practices, urban development, and agricultural systems, to documenting traditional Tibetan music, Buddhist rituals, and archaeological sites and examples of vernacular architecture. A range of development-related topics helped document and appreciate the historic changes that are sweeping the Tibetan Plateau. Every year, coping with an increasingly intrusive surveillance system added a critical dimension to the risk of conducting fieldwork in sometimes extreme natural conditions. Tony is proud of what his students have accomplished in spite of the challenges they encountered. Retracing earlier routes, 2019 participants had an opportunity to make comparisons with earlier project sites in the upper reaches of the Yellow River, the Yangtze and the Tsangpo/Brahmaputra river basins. Throughout the journey, once precarious dirt roads have been widened and paved while massive tunneling projects expand China's road and rail networks across the plateau and on to South Asia. Preparing for retirement, helping edit the 2019 *Field Journal* remains a final task, as well as archiving the entire Tibet program.

AMY ROCK is a community geographer who has worked with cities large and small. An avid proponent of community leadership, she encourages her students to become engaged in their communities and think critically about spatial politics, community development, and the role of nonprofit organizations in our society. A firm believer in using her powers for good, Amy's research interests include utilizing GIS to examine economic relationships, community needs, and improving effectiveness of philanthropic and nonprofit programs. Research and professional projects have included examining economic accessibility in Appalachia, public participation in the federal block grant process, evaluation of high-speed rail routing, process improvement for environmental reviews, and identification of high-risk areas of homelessness within a community. Her current research examines the relationship between company towns and economic dependence. She has been teaching geography and geospatial courses at HSU since 2014, and is also the director for the Online Geospatial Certificate Program. In the past year, she co-authored *Geospatial Concepts: The Fundamentals of Geospatial Science*, with Nicolas Malloy, and published some of her work on public participation and public funding. She was also selected to the editorial board of *Cartographic Perspectives*, and was appointed to the Committee on the Status of Women in Geography, a standing committee of the American Association of Geographers. Amy has worked on commercial GIS and cartography projects for state, county, and local governments, and has also provided geospatial expertise for private and nonprofit organizations. A past director of the Appalachian Leadership Academy, she has experienced firsthand how collaboration is fostered by an understanding of the ways in which geography connects us all.



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ROSEMARY SHERRIFF has been at HSU since 2009. Her research has focused on western forests ranging from Alaska, the Rockies, to northern



California. Recent research themes in her Dendroecology Lab include stand dynamics and tree-growth response to climate, disturbance and forest management practices in redwood, oak and mixed conifer forests of northwest California; climate and spruce beetle effects across white

spruce ecosystems near the North American boreal-tundra margin in southwest Alaska; and mixed-severity fire regimes in montane forests of the Colorado wildland-urban interface and the broader western United States. Rosemary and Lucy Kerhoulas recently teamed up at HSU to combine their shared interest in forest ecology and biogeography in an investigation of how diverse conifers are responding to drought in the Klamath Ecoregion. The three-year study, funded by the National Science Foundation, uses a dual analysis of growth and stable isotope ratios in tree-rings; it provides hands-on field- and lab-based research experiences and employment for multiple graduate and undergraduate students each year. The research team was recently awarded additional funding to further this project with a regional analysis of



forest mortality and regeneration.

CHELSEA TEALE, lecturer at HSU since 2013, continues to balance full-time teaching with an active research agenda in environmental history and historical ecology. Last fall she taught her tenth

lecture course at Humboldt! She published two articles last year, one on the paleobotany of a marsh on the central California coast and another on nineteenth-century wetland devaluation in the northeast. She is also awaiting the publication of a co-authored article, to which she contributed a section on plant fossils in a newly discovered pre-last glacial maximum site in New York. Last summer, Chelsea spent two months at the New York State Library's New Netherland Research Center where she used primary sources to research how Dutch colonists responded to the Little Ice Age climate of the seventeenth century. This research foray was funded by a grant from the New Netherland Institute, which also hosted her at an October conference as an invited speaker. She attended the Northeast and Atlantic Region Environmental History Forum in July 2019. She is currently working with Cornell University Press on a contract to publish a book on the environmental history of Dutch New York. Another ongoing project stems from a summer 2018 workshop on R at the Missouri Botanical Garden; Chelsea and a colleague have been working to use the software to identify a new chronostratigraphic marker in sediment cores.

ALMA ZECHMAN, head of the department office, returned to her home, the Department Geography, Environment, and Spatial Analysis and the Environmental Studies program after several years of being in other departments at HSU. She is happy to be part of a department that feels like family. Over the past year, her daughter graduated from high school and she moved to Chico and then San Diego. They adopted a puppy to assist them with the empty nest transition. Alma spent all of last year recovering from plantar fasciitis injury, which prevented her from her passion of long-distance running, but she has finally recovered and returned to running. She is currently training for a trail half marathon, small steps before increasing back to ultras.

