

2021

## Alumni Updates

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## ALUMNI UPDATES



**BENJAMIN  
AIPPERSBACH (2012)**  
**TRANSLATOR**  
**Beijing, China**

"In that education shapes the parameters by which we view the world from, HSU Geography is unique in its praxis. Its holistic approach of spatial theory and

hands-on research is accommodating of those from many backgrounds and inclinations. For me, the analysis of global regions and global issues was its most fascinating aspect. The department has an exceptional faculty that can open your mind to many pertinent and pressing issues perhaps never before considered. The breadth of research and depth of expertise within the department is such that one might feel eight semesters just isn't enough! There is some sense that at Humboldt State Geography the whole world is your classroom."



**NICK BURDINE (2016)**  
*Peace Corps, Ukraine (2017-19)*  
**PARK RANGER**  
**Bureau of Land Management**  
**Butte, MT**



"Humboldt Geography instilled in me a sense of exploration and

curiosity. I learned how to ask meaningful questions about the world around me and how to use physical, cultural, and political landscapes to answer those questions. Professors at HSU challenged students not just to study the material, but to engage with it, understand it, and experience it firsthand."



**DANIEL DEMPSEY (1999)**  
**GEOSCIENCES LECTURER**  
**College of the Redwoods**  
**Eureka, CA**

"Fighting wildland fires in northern California in my late teens, I was given an opportunity to visit HSU's campus and determined from that moment

forward to eventually come back. After a lengthy career in natural resources management and protection, I pursued Geography at HSU, where I was instilled with countless opportunities to transition my skill set into the field professionally. I can only begin to relate how geographic studies have enabled me to appreciate the dynamics of this planet and the human experience of which we are all a part."



**SARAH DUMONT (2014)**  
**WILDERNESS PARK RANGER**  
**Zion National Park, UT**

"HSU Geography taught me to pursue my passion and never stop exploring. The professors encouraged me to work for the National Park Service and provided me with advice, recommendations, and support for my future career. Being

a park ranger and wilderness steward in a country I wasn't born in is a privilege. I am forever thankful for the HSU Geography community, for all the fun field trips we went on, and the opportunities that were given to me to succeed."



**ERIC FOWLER (2014)**  
*Peace Corps, Albania (2017-19)*  
**Social Security Administration**  
**North Bend, OR**



"Humboldt Geography provided me with many opportunities to

learn and grow. The program recognizes students' varied interests and potentials, enabling them to blossom as geographers and critical thinkers. The knowledge and the qualitative and quantitative skills that I garnered at HSU from the teachings and mentorship of Geography faculty greatly aided me while taking on projects in the Peace Corps and continues to aid me in my career. I am extremely grateful for my time in the Geography program and for all of the support and encouragement from the HSU Geography family."

## ALUMNI UPDATES



**BLENNA KIROS (2018)**  
**CARTOGRAPHER/GIS ANALYST**  
**Southern Region**  
**US Forest Service**  
**Atlanta, GA**

"Take a course in HSU Geography and fall in love! The faculty are as varied and interesting as the classes they

teach. I wanted to understand the world I live in, they offered me exactly that! I work for the Southern Region of US Forest Service as a cartographer/GIS analyst. I am responsible for creating data that identifies different types of lands within the Jefferson National forest. This will serve as a platform for generating habitat protection programs throughout National Recreation areas in Virginia. I love my ability to apply the theoretical knowledge and technical skills I learned from studying Geography and GIS."



**ISABELLA KNORI (2017)**  
**GIS/CADASTRAL TECHNICIAN**  
**Salt Lake County**  
**Recorder's Office**  
**Salt Lake City, UT**

"Majoring in Geography was one of the best decisions I have ever made. The program

was engaging, fun, and multidisciplinary. Studying GIS helped me land my current position. GIS is such a sought-after skill that really complemented my degree. My favorite part about being in Geography hands-down was real-world exploration. Many of my classes featured field trips that took us into the landscapes we studied and talked about in class."



**DR. TIMOTHY KARAS (1992)**  
**PRESIDENT**  
**Mendocino College**  
**Ukiah, CA**

"The HSU Geography program provides the opportunity for you to understand the complex connectivity of people and places, explore relationships

between the physical environment and society, and visualize the spatial organization of humanity. Geography will ground you in any field or career you choose to pursue."



**AMANDA KAMLET (2020)**  
**MASTER'S STUDENT**  
**Gevirtz Graduate School**  
**of Education**

**UC Santa Barbara**  
**Santa Barbara, CA**

"Entering college, I knew very little about Geography. But taking Human Geography at HSU inspired me to be a

Geography major because, as I learned, Geography is so much more than place-name memorization. The environment and professors that make up this program welcome all aspects of learning and are truly an amazing community. Being a part of this program has made me a better student. And it will make me a better educator. I am happy to be a member of this department's alumni."



**MASSIMO LAMBERT (2018)**  
**CONSULTANT**  
**Sebastopol, CA**

"HSU Geography taught me the importance of community, in academics and life. Having such a tight-knit group of hardworking peers and knowledgeable professors at Humboldt State has defined the

way I approach political organizing work with San Francisco Rising and the Sunrise Movement Bay Area, as well as the storytelling workshops I facilitate with Storycenter. My GIS and cartography skills have translated into permaculture designs for Black-owned farms in rural Mississippi. I have found that my education continues to define the way I see the world and my passion to make positive change."





**DAVID  
PAYTON (2014)**  
*CLIENT SUCCESS  
MANAGER*

**Procore**

**San Diego, CA**

“HSU Geography is built upon a legacy of passionate contributors that invest in their students and their community which makes campus my second home. My career

is based on my ability to solve complex problems the construction industry faces when adopting new technologies. My work has taken me from projects in Seattle to construction sites in Costa Rica and across Latin America. HSU geospatial sciences played a huge part in my ability to dive into my career while following my passion!”



**KIM REDDING (2002)**  
*ACCOUNTANT*  
**Portland, OR**

“After taking Cultural Geography at HSU, I quickly changed my major to learn about different people around the world. My geographic education changed the way I see the world and how I see myself in it.

I was fortunate enough to take part in the Tibet/China Field Studies Program in 2001, learning the invaluable skill of how to be a traveler. I developed a global perspective, experienced diversity like never before, and gained a bold curiosity and confidence about travel that will always be with me. Whether traveling with family or solo, the skills I learned and the experiences I had with HSU Geography sparked a life-long love of travel.”



**DR. DENIELLE  
PERRY (2006)**  
*WATER RESOURCE  
GEOGRAPHER*  
**School of Earth  
and Sustainability  
Northern Arizona  
University  
Flagstaff, AZ**

“Like so many others, I didn’t know I was a geographer until I took a class in Human Geography.

HSU Geography professors provided me with the inspiration and education I needed to pursue my long-term career goals. As a geographer, you will be uniquely positioned to think in systematic ways across scales to solve some of the most pressing social and environmental problems of our times.”



**JOSHUA  
SHINDELBOWER (2018)**  
*GIS MAPPING  
TECHNICIAN*  
**Green Diamond  
Resource Company  
Korbel, CA**

“The high-quality practical learning experience afforded to each student of Humboldt State’s Department of Geography, Environment,

and Spatial Analysis is a true blessing. Each instructor has a wealth of knowledge across an amazing variety of subjects, and they will share it with anyone who is willing to seek it. I apply knowledge and skills gained while attending HSU every day in my professional and personal life. Take advantage of the resources offered by the program... and share them with the rest of the world.”