



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2020

Issue I

MACALESTER GEOGRAPHY

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UPCOMING DATES!

- ☆ October 29th (Thurs) 4:30 - 5:30 pm → Virtual Geography Tea Time
- ☆ November 15th - 21st → Geography Awareness Week!
- ☆ November 18th (Wed) 4:30 - 5:30 pm → "Maroon Futures: Quilombo struggles in the Bay of Aratu" with Adam Bledsoe (more on this on p.2)

DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

In June, **Holly Barcus** was elected to serve as a Vice President for the [International Geographical Union \(IGU\)](#)! The IGU is an international, non-governmental, professional organization devoted to the development of the discipline of Geography. *Congratulations!*

Welcome to the World Halldór!

The Geography Department is happy to share the news that Ashley Nepp '08 (Geography) and Matthew Bergeron '08 welcomed Halldór "Halli" Matthew on Tuesday, September 22 at 8:41 a.m., weighing 7 lbs. 1 oz. and measuring 21.5" . Mom, Dad and baby are all doing well!



Congrats to geography alum **Julia Morgan '18** for an article she and **Bill Moseley** recently had published in a peer reviewed journal based on her senior honors thesis research:

Morgan, J. and W.G. Moseley 2020. "The Secret is in the Sauce: Foraged Food and Dietary Diversity Among Female Farmers in Southwestern Burkina Faso." *Canadian Journal of Development Studies / Revue Canadienne d'Études du Développement*. 41(2): 296-313. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/02255189.2020.1781600>

The scientific advisory board that **Bill Moseley** sits on for the UN Committee on World Food Security published two reports over the summer (for which Bill served on the author team):

- a) "Food Security and Nutrition: Building A Global Narrative Towards 2030" <http://www.fao.org/3/ca9731en/ca9731en.pdf> and
- b) "Impacts of COVID-19 on food security and nutrition: developing effective policy responses to address the hunger and malnutrition pandemic" <http://www.fao.org/3/cb1000en/cb1000en.pdf>

Introducing the Macalester Geography Department 2020-2021 Speaker Series!

This year, the Macalester Geography is hosting a speaker series to **highlight younger scholars working on socially relevant issues at the forefront of our discipline.** This virtual seminar series will be held on Zoom, featuring a 30-35 minute talk followed by ample time for engagement and discussion.

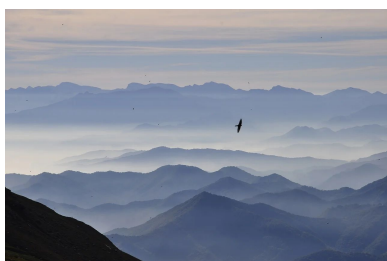
The motivation behind the speaker series? As Professor Bill Moseley put it: “We all miss seeing each other in the department and we felt that a virtual speaker series would be one way to draw us all together for a bit of intellectual sustenance and convivial exchange. Furthermore, one of the few upsides of a pandemic is that we can actually afford to bring top notch speakers to campus virtually, something that would have been cost prohibitive under the old system of in-person lectures.”

We are kicking off the series with a talk on November 18th by **Adam Bledsoe**, a leading voice on the dynamic new field of Black Geographies.

Check out his Minneapolis Uprising Syllabus here:

<https://adambledsoe.wordpress.com/minneapolis-uprising-syllabus/>.

**Adam Bledsoe’s talk on November 18th 4:30-5:30 pm is titled
"Maroon Futures: Quilombo struggles in the Bay of Aratu"**



INTRODUCTIONS

Macalester Geography Department's Social Media Team



FINN ODUM '21
fodum@macalester.edu

Hey y'all! I'm Finn Odum (she/they), and I'm a senior Geography major. I also have a minor in media studies and a concentration in Community and Global Health. Though I wasn't born in Milwaukee, I still call the great state of Wisconsin my home.

I found Geography in high school when I needed an IB social science course. Taught by one of my favorite teachers, IB Geography showed me the importance of spatial analysis and the role of place in research. That interest in Geography carried over to Mac, where I had an FYC with Eric. I love the Mac Geography department because there's something for everyone--whether it's qualitative or quantitative research, urban or rural geography, there's a field of study for you.

In the department, I work as a social media assistant. I love this role because it helps me connect with the community (including alumni). One fun fact about me is that I'm a contributing writer for the Perisphere blog, where I write mini-essays on movies playing at the Twin Cities theater the Trylon.



JUTHI DEWAN '22
sdewan@macalester.edu

My name is Juthi (she/her/hers) and I am a junior Applied Math and Stats major with a concentration in Urban Studies. I was born in Chittagong, Bangladesh where I lived for most of my life before my family immigrated to Redlands, California (where ESRI is headquartered, a little fun fact). I have always had this strong sense of place and I never really knew what it was and what to do with it, so I decided to take a Geography class at Mac and fell in love with the department! I work as a Social Media Coordinator, alongside Finn, where a big chunk of what I do is make graphics!

GTU Co-Presidents (2020-2021)



ANISHA RAJBHANDARY '21

arajbhan@macalester.edu

Hello everyone! My name is Anisha RajBhandary (she/her/hers). I am a senior at Macalester College, from Portland, OR, majoring in Geography and Asian Studies.

I was drawn to Geography due to its interdisciplinary nature and emphasis on learning more about the world beyond one's immediate circle. As a Macalester geography student, I've loved having the opportunity to learn about global themes and trends, how to make maps (and how they lie!), qualitative and quantitative research methods, as well as focusing on Asia more specifically as a region. Recently, I've been very interested in learning more about Asian diaspora and identity.

I am excited to be serving as one of your GTU co-presidents this academic year!



JIM SMITH '21

jimsmith17@macalester.edu

Hey fellow geographers! My name is Jim Smith (he/him/his) and I hail from Shippensburg, PA. I am a senior this year, majoring in Geography and Economics, minoring in Religious Studies.

I am passionate about Geography because of how it informs our use of a spatial lens when working to address important problems. This level of analysis, often underutilized and overlooked in other fields, has been made most real for me through experiences in our department's GIS course offerings (namely Urban GIS) and GIS internships in the non-profit and government sectors. The supportive professors and wonderful peers of our department have consistently provided me with challenging academic opportunities and fun social ones alike.

As a GTU co-president this year, I am excited to work with Anisha to facilitate community-building events, uplift student scholarship, and serve as conduit between students, faculty, and staff in the department. Be well, be in touch, and look forward to a productive and enjoyable (albeit unusual) year in our department!

Interview with: ALYSHA ALLOWAY '17



Q: Can you introduce yourself briefly? What have you done since then graduating from Mac?

I'm Alysha (she/her), originally from Cabin John, MD (DC burbs) but now I'd say I'm an honorary Minnesotan. After Mac, I went straight to grad school! I've moved around the Twin Cities a few times with my significant other, a social worker, and we recently settled in Powderhorn. I was a Teaching Assistant throughout grad school, worked for the City of Saint Paul for a while, and also did research melding GIS and community action work. I had a number of really fun part-time gigs while in grad school, but I think my favorite was working with an antique map seller. Speaking of antique maps, my picture shows the Madaba Map behind me - it's a mosaic map from the 6th century inlaid onto the floor of a Byzantine church in Madaba, Jordan. It is the earliest known depiction of the Middle East on a map.

Q: What has been your favorite part about teaching this module?

My students of course! It's been a really tough time for the world, but I like to think we've all had a good time in GIS lab. I've also really enjoyed being back at Mac in a new role. Coming back to Mac feels like coming home!

Q: Has Mac changed at all since you were a student here? If so, how?

Besides the obvious pandemic changes, things are pretty much the same. Although it's only been three years, I was kind of expecting some things to look different... but nope! I do think the Mac community is continuously changing and striving to be better, more socially conscious, more aware - so the change happening here is good.

Q: What is your fondest Geography department memory from your time as a student here?

I have some really happy memories of holding office hours as a TA from the *iconic* green department lounge couch, especially holding office hours for the FYCs I was a TA for (a huge shoutout to Holly's Contemporary Mongolia and Dan's Urban Geography FYCs). Maybe it's no surprise that I loved being a TA so much that I wanted to become a teacher. I can't really confirm or deny my progressive planning skills, but there may have been a moment where 50+ Geography friends were scream-singing "Don't Stop Believin'" in my college apartment.

Q: What was your favorite Geography class you took while a student at Mac?

It's tough to pick favorites! Maybe my FYC, Human Geography with Professor Lanegran, for introducing me to the department as a community and to geography as a field of study.

Q: Do you have any advice for current students at Mac? (Advice for first years vs. advice for seniors?)

For first years: Find a reason to consistently get off campus, whether it's volunteering, an internship, or a grand plan to visit every thrift store in the Twin Cities. I once took the commuter rail to the end of the line and went camping with friends during Fall Break. Don't take school and grades so seriously all of the time, and your happiness is worth doing just "okay" on an assignment now and then. It's so important to learn about the place you live!

For seniors: You don't need a plan. Going to grad school wasn't my plan - it just suddenly felt right at the right time. I actually applied with no intention of going. You don't need to secure a perfect job before you graduate. You don't even need to have a clue about what you want to do. Try a job or internship out, and if you don't like it, QUIT. I think the worst advice I ever got was to stick around in a job so it would look good on my resume. If a job is not for you you'll probably know pretty quick, so trust yourself and respect yourself enough to find something that fits you better.

Q: If you could be a map projection which one would you be and why?

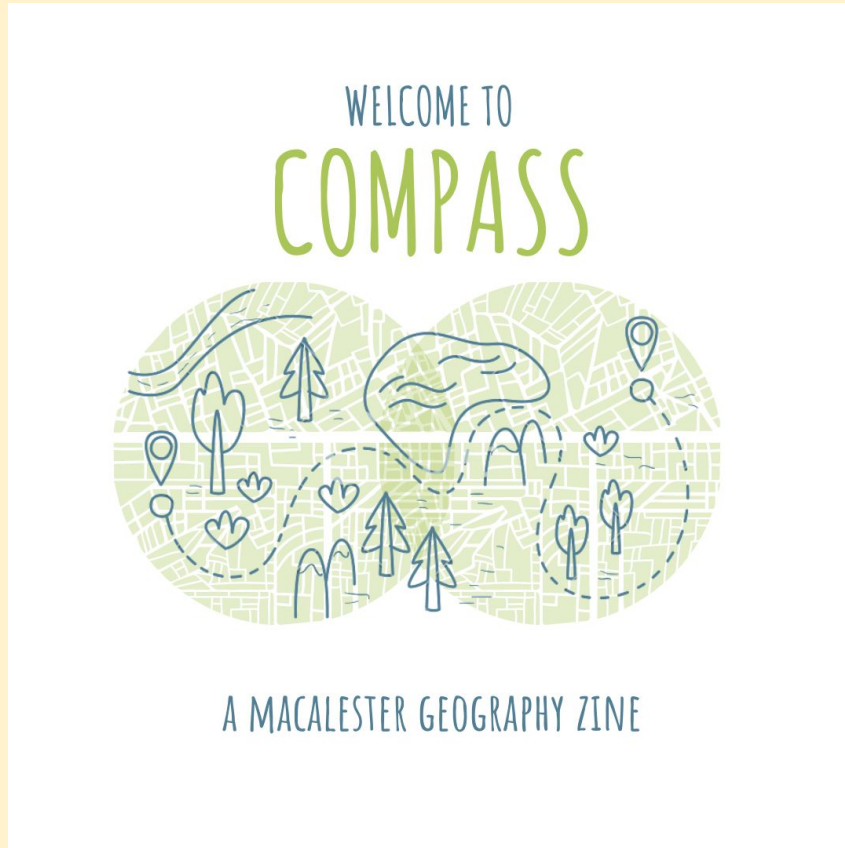
The [Spilhaus projection](#) is pretty fun, kind of bizarre, and likes water a lot, so that's a candidate. As a loyal friend that you can always trust, my old standby, Lambert Conformal Conic.

Q: What's the best map (new or old) you've come across recently?

For functionality and current importance, the [Twin Cities Mutual Aid Map](#). If you're able, stay connected to the Twin Cities community and volunteer your time where it's needed.

**Thank you for joining us for Module 1 Alysha!
You will be missed!**

SUBMIT TO COMPASS!



We're still accepting submissions for COMPASS! COMPASS is a zine from Mac Geography. This semester, we're looking to understand what "Home" means to you. We're accepting everything from digital art to photos to written pieces. Short essays and written content can be no longer than 1,500 words, and photos/artwork can not be any larger than 8.5 x 11 inches. **Submissions are due by November 25th** and can be sent to either Finn or Juthi (fodum@macalester.edu & sdewan@macalester.edu).

COMPASS
CALL FOR SUBMISSION

This fall, we're searching for the meaning of home. We want to learn about the places that are essential to our community. Home could be a birthplace or an adopted city, your dorm room in Saint Paul, or your parent's house a few states over. We want to learn about your family traditions and favorite parts of town. The routes you took to go to school. Where you spent your summers as a child. There's no limit, no one to tell you, "this isn't home, it never was".

Join GTU, the International Geographical Honor Society!

Why join?

- Provides a network to become better acquainted with other Geography students and interact with Geography faculty
- Members are eligible for GTU scholarships
- Demonstrates dedication to and excellence in Geography

Requirements:

- Must have completed a minimum of 3 geography courses
- Have a B average in Geography and rank in the upper 35% of your class
- Have completed at least 3 semesters of college coursework



Photos from the 9/10 Geography Department gathering, featuring Geography Faculty and Staff trivia, set up Juthi, and moderated by Finn.

Letter from your GTU co-presidents:

Hello Geography friends!

We hope you are all doing well and taking care of yourselves.

We acknowledge that it is an extremely difficult time to be a student at Macalester, considering ongoing local and global events. Right now we are living through a pandemic, grieving a student death, experiencing heightened anti-blackness and racist rhetoric, facing a tumultuous presidential election, and still adjusting to both remote learning and the new module system.

As your GTU co-presidents, we hope to connect and foster growth in our Geography community and find new ways that we can support each other through a challenging year.

To fulfill our roles as GTU co-presidents, this year we will be planning academic opportunities to promote awareness of geography and fun community-building events to connect the community, as well as representing the student voices of our department at faculty meetings. As such, please reach out to us if you have any questions, concerns or ideas for the department. We will also be sure to reach out to all of you looking for feedback and how we can best support all of you at this time.

All the best,
Anisha and Jim

arajbhan@macalester.edu
jsmith17@macalester.edu

