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THE GRATICULE

Official Newsletter of the Macalester Geography Department

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A Warm Welcome

On one of the weakening days of summer weather, the geography department gathered to welcome in the new semester.

Introductions were made, announcements shared, acquaintances became a little more familiar, laughter had and jimmy johns eaten. Both the weather and atmosphere were a breath of fresh air. To be all together after 2 years of less than ideal circumstances, was a joy. The community we have at Macalester and Geography is a special one. This newsletter aims to continue community building by sharing the accomplishments, opportunities, events, and experiences of all those who call themselves geographers at Macalester. To those who are new to Macalester and Geography, we wish you a warm welcome and I hope that this Newsletter helps you feel like a part of our network of people that help you along your way, like a Graticule.



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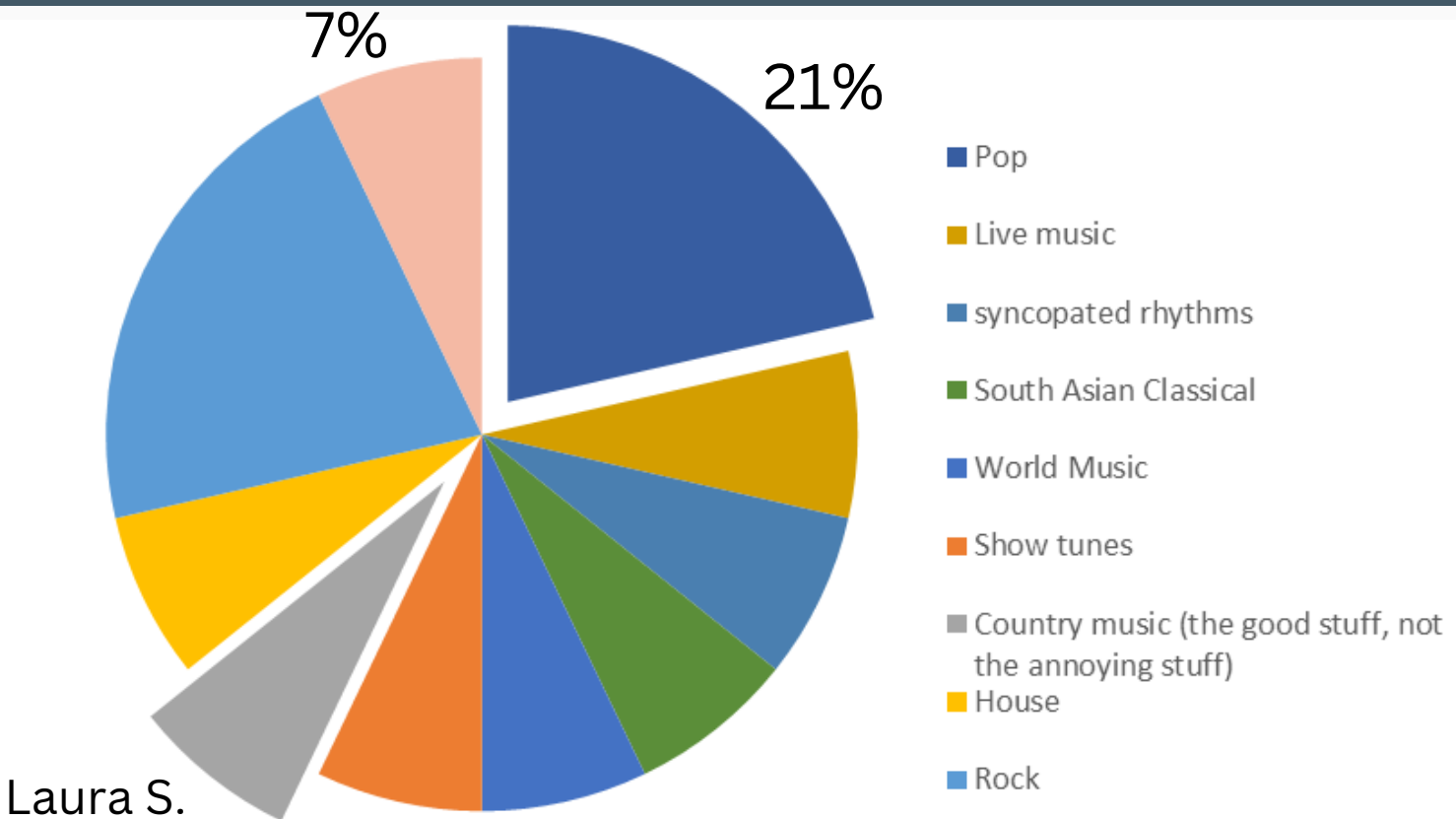
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Faculty Fun Facts



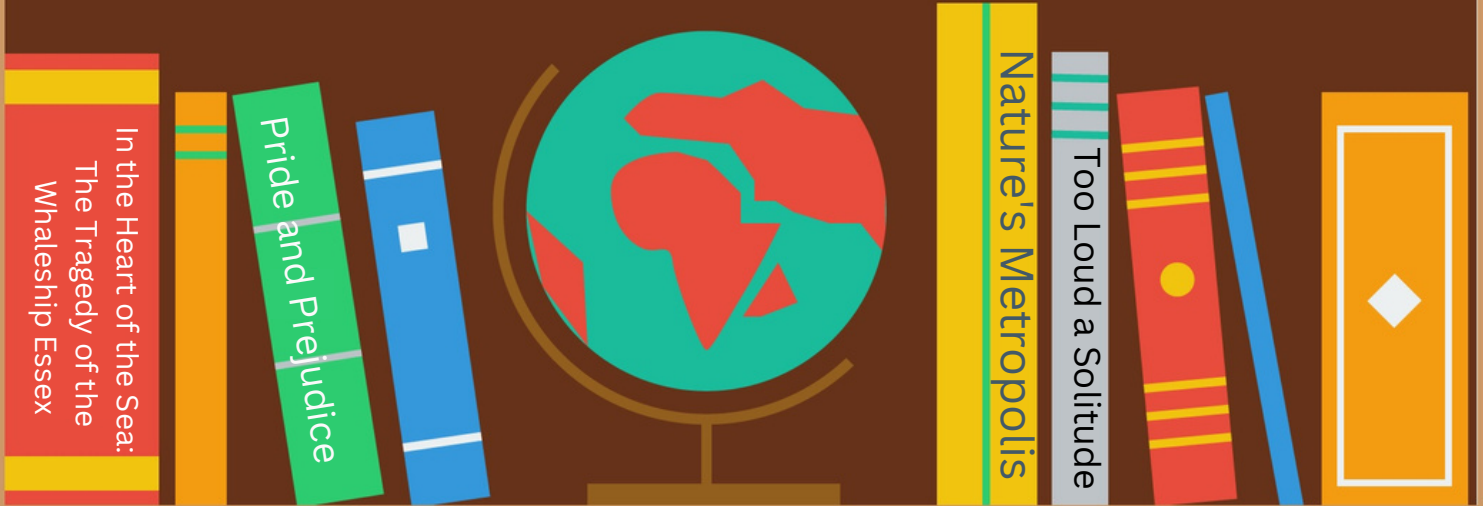
Favorite Type Of Music





Faculty Fun Facts

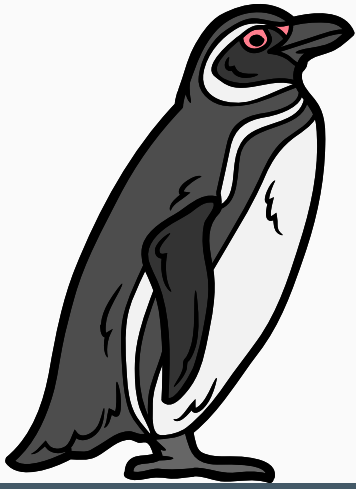
Favorite Books





Faculty Fun Facts

If you were an animal, what animal would you be?



Eric
Magellanic Penguin



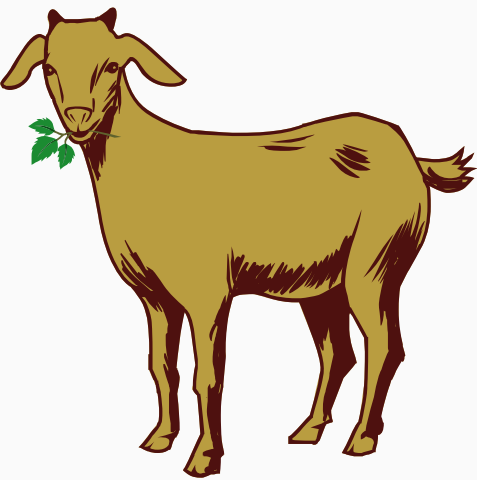
Rupak : Horse
"I am free-spirited
and love
long-distance
running."



Laura S.
Great Blue Heron



Dan: Owl
"Flight. Echolocation.
Need I say more?"



Jesse
"The goat an
adaptable omnivore"



Xavier
Fresh Water Dolphin



Laura K.
Koala Bear
"They seem very
soft and cuddly"



Bill
Bear
Ashley
Undecided

Celebrating the Inaugural Lecture of William (Bill) G. Moseley as DeWitt Wallace Professor of Geography

Many new students and old ones too might be wondering what on earth a Dewitt Wallace Professorship is. It is an honor issued to professors whom the school recognizes for their major contributions in their particular fields. Macalester's DeWitt Wallace Professorships were established in 1976 through a gift from DeWitt Wallace, son of Macalester president James Wallace. He and his wife Lila Acheson Wallace co-founded Reader's Digest in 1920 and supported the college generously. In addition to the title, professors receive an actual chair.



With a large crowd in person and on zoom gathered to celebrate his work, Bill took the opportunity to first thank his colleagues, international collaborators, and his family for their help in his journey. He then began this lecture on African agriculture through a short story of his time as a peace corps volunteer in Mali where he experienced the contradictions of African agricultural development. There, ag extension agents proselytized the growing of cotton across the country despite its negative impacts on the environment and food security. Why these informed developers would promote this, led him to interrogate the colonial and post-colonial political history of African agriculture. Drawing upon his decades of experience and research, Bill used four case studies in Mali, Burkina Faso, Botswana, and South Africa to illustrate the problems with agricultural development in Africa and the need for a political ecology and agroecology rethinking. He also used these case studies to show that change is occurring and that the situation is not without hope. The full lecture can be found linked in the image above.

"We will only begin to seriously address hunger in Africa when we more fully question the assumption that increased crop production alone is the solution"

WILLIAM G. MOSELEY





Celebrating the Inaugural Lecture of William (Bill) G. Moseley as DeWitt Wallace Professor of Geography (after party)





Staff and Student Spotlight



Rupak Shrestha (he/him)



Cecelia and I had the pleasure to sit down and get to know our newest faculty member in the geography department. Here are some of the things we learned.

Rupak's family is originally from rural Nepal but he was born and raised in Kathmandu where his parents moved to. Growing up Rupak and a close group of friends were very involved in Kathmandu's underground metal music scene and in Nepali arts and literature. Rupak nearly went to study tourism in Ukraine before his dad strongly encouraged going to the USA instead where he ended up in St. Cloud. His interest in tourism was motivated by his interest in understanding other cultures which, after attending a geography conference in 2010, led him to cultural geography.

Like many of us, he was hooked on geography's collegiality, utility, and methods



Rupak completed a B.A in Geography, Tourism, and GIS at St. Cloud State University. With an M.A. in Geography From Miami University (Ohio) he pursued a Ph.D. in Geography at the University of Colorado Boulder, where he was awarded the NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant to research in Nepal among Tibetan and Indigenous Himalayan communities on questions of belonging, surveillance, and memory. He says his use of visual media in his dissertation and later research was partially inspired by his old heavy metal friends whose passion and desire for meaningful change pushed Rupak in new and more evocative ways to capture people's complex sense of space and identity. Rupak calls a couple of places home but he is excited to be in MN his first home in the states and teach at Macalester. His hopes for this year are to foster a collaborative environment where power relations are disrupted and leveled facilitating a transparent exchange of knowledge. He is enjoying his current classes and is excited to teach Indigenous Futures, Borders and Belonging, and GEOG 111: Human Geography of Global Issues in the Spring. He enjoys running, hiking, and going to concerts, and would love any suggestions for good spots.



Staff and Student Spotlight



Milosz Fernandez-Kepka (he/him)

Milosz is a senior geography major with a psychology minor. This summer he conducted research on urban planning in Barcelona and Berlin with the help of the Leland and Kathleen Hansen Geography Research Endowed Fund. The Hansen Fund was established in 2013 and yearly supports students involved in research projects in the field of urban geography, with preference given to current geography majors. Kathleen Lawler Hansen graduated from Macalester in 1963 where her father attended in the 1930s, and where her daughter Laura Hansen Smith would graduate and become a tenured professor. Milosz says it is a great opportunity to explore and delve deep into subjects you care about and encourages everyone interested to apply. He also advises people not to be afraid to do something that has never been done before.

Milosz's research focused on two areas within Barcelona and Berlin; the Olympic Village and Potsdamer Platz. Both spaces entered into the modern age with almost a blank slate after years of neglect following the Spanish Civil War and WWII. This provided the perfect opportunity to assess world-renowned urban redevelopment projects that have transformed their respective districts and cities as a whole. Milosz employed Jan Gehl's 4 dimensions to ask the question What is the quality of urban public spaces in both sites when one considers these four dimensions?



Potsdamer Platz, Berlin



Olympic Village, Barcelona

Milosz's research found that both public spaces were incredibly well designed with both having positives and drawbacks. What he found differentiated them was the space's chosen values; a result of culture, design, and careful planning. The Platz was focused on control and was steep in technological innovation and symbolism. For example, green spaces were sloped East and West representing Berlin's past but also discouraging the public from sitting on the grass. This control Milosz argues has drawbacks in accessibility particularly when you factor in the consumerism of surrounding shops but does allow for well-planned sustainability. The Village on the other hand valued a certain "randomness" in its design to give its users the freedom to choose. Exercise equipment for example could be used in multiple ways and the beaches were very open, at the cost of overfilled trash cans, reducing sustainability.

This Month's Adventures



Dream Play Build Workshop



Visit to Family Tree Clinic

This Month's Adventures



Feild Trip to Common Harvest CSA Vegetable Farm



Feild Trip to Ordway Field Station

Also the cover picture for Remote Sensing's debut album, coming soon

Announcements, Events and Opportunities

Announcements



Good map, Bad Map, Cool Map

For the next issue of the Graticule please send your best good maps, your worst bad maps, and your dopest cool map to bpersena@macalester.edu, and I and a qualified group of judges will determine three winners.

Professor Carter Co-Wrote a Study on Pandemic Resilience in Argentina

Professor Carter and Dr. María Laura Cordero wrote "[Salir Adelante: Social capital and resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic in Argentina](#)", a paper about social capital and cohesion during the COVID-19 pandemic in northwest Argentina.



Events

Geography Open House (October 6th, 11:30 am to 12:30 pm)

There will be snacks, new friends, and activities (i.e. project showcase, drone flying, casual socializing) throughout the first floor of Carnegie. This is a great time to bring that friend who you just know would love geography. If you want to help out you can sign up to volunteer [here](#).

GRAND AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION Listening session (October 4th, 4 to 5 pm)

Do you want to make a lasting impact on Macalester's community? The City of Saint Paul plans to reconstruct Grand Avenue from Fairview Avenue to Snelling Avenue in 2024. Come to Markim Lower Level to learn more about the project and get the chance to ask questions and give input.

Opportunities



[Refugee and Immigrant Program Intake Internship](#)
[Internship with the Council on Environmental Quality](#)
[Data Scientist | Job Details tab | Career Pages](#)
[The Fresh Water Trust](#)

Save the Dates

November 3rd, Lunch for Juniors

November 14-18, Geography Awareness week

**November 17, Prof Barcus Endowed Chair Lecture and
Celebration**

November 28, Geography Winter Dinner

**Thanks For Reading
See you Next Month!**