



Projections from the Chair

Dan Trudeau, Geography Department Chair

Mac's campus is once again abuzz with the arrival of new and returning students. The first floor of Carnegie Hall is also animated with the arrival of five visiting faculty and scholars in the Geography Department.

Our visiting scholar, Kolosa Ntombini, is spending a year with us as a Fulbright doctoral research fellow. Kolosa is pursuing her Ph.D. in Geography at the University of Cape Town. Her research examines spatial justice in the specific practices



Dan Trudeau & Kolosa Ntombini visit an apple orchard, October 2024

of South Africa's land reform policy, focusing on the wine industry. Her fieldwork suggests that current land policies in this sector may perpetuate rather than alleviate socio-spatial inequalities and injustice.

I am delighted she is spending the academic year with us. It's worth noting that Kolosa is following in the footsteps of her doctoral advisor, Professor Maano Ramutsindela, who had a residency in the Geography Department in 2016 as a Humphrey Distinguished visiting professor. Please help Kolosa feel welcome at Mac!

Learn more about our visitors on page 2 of this issue!



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By Sasha Joseph '25



Liz Calhoun

Liz Calhoun (she/her) is joining us at Macalester this semester! She grew up in a small town in North Carolina, but thinks of the Twin Cities as home. She has a history degree from UC Berkeley, as well as a Master's in Gender Studies from Central European University, where she maintains connections throughout Central and Eastern Europe. Calhoun's work concerns Digital Geography, which she describes as "A critical examination of how digital phenomena like media and digital interfaces, automated technologies reshape space and how we understand it."

She has focused on critical examination of the use of geocoded predictive technology by police from an abolitionist perspective. Her work on the subject can be found in [these published journal articles](#). This semester, Calhoun is teaching "Critical Digital Geographies", which covers literatures and technologies concerning A.I., surveillance, commodification of data, sovereignty, and more. If you'd like to know more, she can be reached at ecalhoun@macalester.edu!



Jordan Brasher

Jordan Brasher (he/they) is originally from a small town in Tennessee. He loves all things outdoorsy like camping, fishing, hammocking, and "just generally being outside." He currently lives in Cathedral Hill in St. Paul and is still getting used to Minnesota winters as a southerner!

Brasher received his Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. His background is in human and cultural geography with an emphasis on the politics of memory and commemoration in the human-built landscape with a focus on the United States and Brazil. He has written about the politics of the Confederacy in the U.S. South, and the migration of Southerners to Brazil after the Civil War. He also works for Esri as a technical support analyst.

They have a variety of work such as a chapter in "[De-commemoration: removing statues and renaming places](#)", a number of articles for "[The Conversation](#)", and an article for [The Tennessean](#). This semester, Brasher is teaching "Monuments and Memory", which focuses on monuments and memory in a contemporary global context. They can be reached at jbrasher@macalester.edu if you'd like to know more!



Rob Hendrickson

Rob Hendrickson (he/him) is also joining us at Macalester this semester! He is from Red Wing, Minnesota, and has a degree in Mathematics which focused on applying numerical methods on ecology, as well as a Master's in Geographic Information Science.

"Community-based geography, consequences of climate change, and education are my main passions. I see myself primarily as a collaborator in the field. Here to assist cool projects with data processing and advanced GIScience techniques." Aside from Geography, he enjoys paddling, dancing, making music, and writing.

This semester Rob is teaching Advanced Geospatial Analysis, but has been involved with many cool projects with the Geospatial Data Intelligence Lab at the U of M and the Minneapolis Health Department. If those interest you, reach out to him at rhendri3@macalester.edu!

Save the Date

FEBRUARY 21, 2025



We are delighted to announce that Ross Donihue '11 has accepted our invitation to be the 2025 David Lanegran Day Keynote Speaker. Ross was the featured alumni in our October 2023 issue of *The Graticule*. We hope you will save the date and consider joining us for dinner and the keynote.

Email invites will be sent in mid-January.

Honors Society

GT-Who?

Introducing this Year's Geography Honors Society Co-Presidents

Sasha Joseph '25

GTU is back! Gamma Theta Upsilon is an international geography honors society. The Macalester chapter is led by Felicia Winfrey and Aidan Reynolds who spoke with me about their experiences at Mac Geography.

"I feel like the difference that we make is so tangible, it's not just talking about issues, it's one of the reasons I love Geography. Macalester having such a strong Geography department is special". - Felicia Winfrey

"What I'm most excited for and already proud of is the work we do in civic engagement courses like Urban GIS and Qualitative Research Methods. It's an amazing opportunity." - Aidan Reynolds

They both stressed the importance of community in the department "I feel like I know everyone in the department, and everyone's always super game to talk and bounce ideas off of each other." said Winfrey.

They're currently hard at work planning community events for both Geography majors and non-majors alike in the upcoming months, so keep an eye out!



Felicia Winfrey '25 (left) and Aidan Reynolds '25 (right)

Lauren Bonilla '05



My life continues to be enriched by Mac geography! I am fortunate to get to hangout and have great conversations in the Boston area with Mac geography friends like Andrew Riely and Ninya Loeppky. Work wise, I am a research scientist at MIT and co-lead an initiative that bridges anthropology and engineering to holistically address climate and sustainability challenges. We have a project focused on decarbonization in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, where I've been doing research since my undergrad days. I've taken groups of students to Ulaanbaatar for research trips during the middle of winter, which has been immensely rewarding (and freezing cold!).

Grace Armon '22

After I graduated in May 2022, I moved to Germany with 70 of my closest friends as part of the 39th cohort of the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals. I first lived in Cologne where I attended language school in summer 2022, and then I lived in Jena where I took courses in Humangeographie at the university from October 2022 to February 2023. In 2023, I interned at a rural telehealth agency in Jena that works to address gaps in regional healthcare in remote areas in the state of Thuringia. It was truly an amazing experience that I miss every day! I started my Master of Public Health in Maternal and Child Health at the University of Minnesota in September 2023 where I'm a research assistant with the Center for Leadership Education in Maternal and Child Health. For summer of 2024, I'll be assisting the South Dakota Department of Health Office of Child and Family Services with the Title V Needs Assessment through the Title V Internship Program.

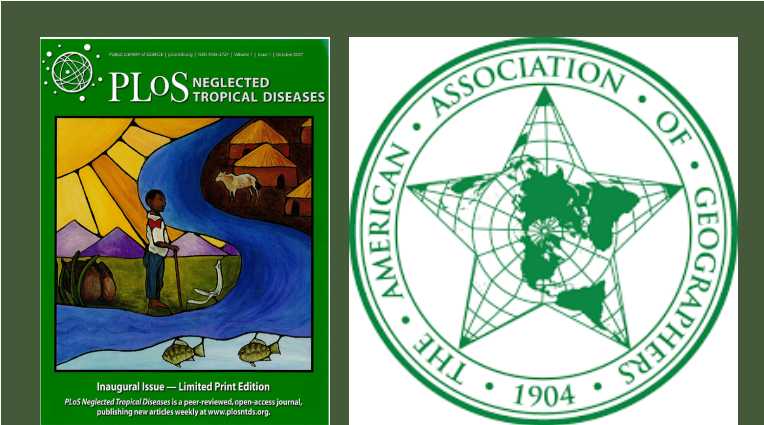


David Spawn '91 I just celebrated my 10 year anniversary at Brixmor Property Group, an open-air shopping center REIT, where I lead their market research group. I have worked in the field of retail location analysis for over 25 years, including stints at Target and Limitedbrands. In this work, I lean heavily on my geography education fundamentals that I gained while at Macalester, especially, the field work taught as part of Professor Lanegran's Urban Geography course. One of the highlights of my job occurs in the summer when we host a market research graduate intern and I try to pass on as much of my geography knowledge as I can!

Cecelia Johnson '22 I am excited to share that I will be heading to the West Coast this fall to begin a dual Master's in Public Health and Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley. At Berkeley, I look forward to continuing my work to advance policies and programs that support health equity.

Freeman Boda '26

Macalester's geography faculty somehow find the time to do some incredible things when they're not spending their hours teaching classes to geography-curious students. Here are just a few of the many things some of our Mac geo professors have been up to recently:



Professor Carter recently published a peer-reviewed journal article in PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases about snakebite victims and antivenom access in southern Mexico.

He was also named to the Editorial Board of the Annals of the American Association of Geographers journal, and received a Macalester Trustee Award for exemplary achievement in teaching, scholarship, and service to the Macalester and professional community.



Professor Dan Trudeau recently published a new article about the importance of investing resources into public parks! It can be found on StreetsMN or The Conversation.

Watch this Space!

We'll have updates on even more of your favorite Mac geography professors in future editions!



Professor Barcus has been traveling the world recently, just having been re-elected as the Vice President of the International Geographical Union at the IGC/IGU Congress in Dublin, Ireland. This semester she is also teaching her new course, Geographies of Resilience.



Professor Bill Moseley's new book, *Decolonizing African Agriculture*, has just been published! It is available for free in an open-access format. Bill had this to say in the book's Acknowledgements:

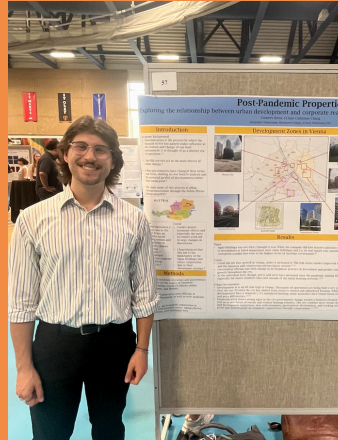
I am also appreciative of the many Macalester College student collaborators whose work I have cited in this book and/ or who have been involved in field research with me in Burkina Faso, Botswana or South Africa, including Rachel Fehr '16, Megan Grinde '08, Saemi Ledermann '05, Julia Morgan '17, Miki Palchick '08, Stephen Peyton '13, Millie Varley '18, Nick Salvato '22, Eliza Pessereau '19, Jane Servin '21 and Zoe Tkaczyk '22. Thanks as well to two Macalester student cartographers, Julia Castellano '26 (pictured above) and Kellen Chenoweth '24, who revised or designed many of the maps and figures in this book.

Mac Geography Goings-On

Freeman Boda '26, Sasha Joseph '25

At Mac Geo there's never a dull day, with students not only learning, but actively engaging with geography and the world around them. Here are some snapshots into what we've been up to so far this semester!

Academic Summer Showcase



Reece McKee '25 and Connery Ritter '25 present at the Macalester Summer Showcase! Check their research out [here](#).

Geography Open House!



Geographers examining maps during this year's geography open house! Food and vibes were shared.

Annual September Geography Lunch!



Students and faculty kick the year off right with the traditional fall semester geography lunch!

Trip to Common Harvest Farm



Students from Professor Bill Moseley's Food, Agriculture, and the Environment class take a trip to Common Harvest Farm in Polk County, Wisconsin.

Mill City Memories



Professor Dan Trudeau's Urban Geography class (top), Professor I-Chun Catherine Chang's FYC World Urbanization class and Professor Eric Carter's Environmental Hazard FYC class (bottom) all took trips to the Mill City Museum.

Mac Up North!



Students from professor Laura Smith's Regional Geography of the United States and Canada class take a trip up north to the boreal forest and iron range!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Professor Kevin Ward Lecture

10/24 @ 4:45pm - Weyerhaeuser Hall

Geography Awareness Week

11/18 to 11/22 - The streets of America, baby

Geography Winter Dinner

12/3 @ 4:45 pm - Weyerhaeuser Hall

NEXT ISSUE

More Alumni Updates

... and much more!

Alumni, What's Up?

We've heard from several of you in response to our past calls to action and hope to include a special alumni updates section in a future edition.

If you've been out and about, tell us what you've been up to! Where in the world are you? What have you been doing since you left Macalester? Have you traveled to far off places? Written a book? Started a new business?

[Submit an update here](#)

Want More?

Keep up with the wider Macalester Geography community by joining our LinkedIn Group (Macalester College Geography Network), Facebook Group (Macalester College Geographers), or follow us on Instagram (@macgeography).



THE GRATICULE

Macalester Geography Department Newsletter

Newsletter Contributors

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Sasha Joseph '25

Dan Trudeau



Departmental Support

Laura Kigin

Support Geography!

When giving to Macalester, consider making a gift to the Geography Department. To direct your gift to our program, please select "other" in the "designate gift to" option and write "Geography" in the comments. Your gift will support high-impact activities, including field trips and professional development opportunities for students that are a signature part of the Macalester Geography experience.

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macalester.edu/geography