

*Sandhill Cranes flying to the river for the night*  
photograph by Laurel Ladwig

## Geographers, Jobs, and the Places You Can Go

Jacob R. Wolff (MS '17)

As graduation season approaches, keynote speakers dust off their copies of *Oh the Places You'll Go*, the classic children's book written by Doctor Seuss. The whimsical story makes for a feel-good reminder that we have a world of choices. Yet, it's also helpful to find a road map with clear directions to consider. New Mexico is home to a vibrant network of geospatial and environmental associations that maintain active job boards. Neighboring states also have professional groups of interest.

The New Mexico Geographic Information Council (NMGIC) represents GIS professionals throughout the state and serves as the primary contact in New Mexico for the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. The organization hosts two general meetings per year, open to any person interested in geographic information, and also hosts seminars and awards. New members are welcome to join. As well, NMGIC maintains the [NMGEO Discussion List](#) that includes regional job postings.

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Our neighbors to the North have GIS Colorado, a consortium of professionals and educators who run a free [listserv](#) and manage a [jobs board](#). The Arizona Geographic Information Council maintains a similar [jobs board](#) with openings in GIS and planning.

For careers in urban and regional planning, the New Mexico Chapter of the American Planning Association has a [web page dedicated to current and recently closed searches](#). This chapter hosts periodic events, an annual conference, and has a student cohort affiliated with the program in Community and Regional Planning at UNM.

Additional planning [jobs throughout the American West](#) can be found online at The Western Planner jobs board.

Careers in conservation and environmental science can be found at Conservation Jobs Board. [Openings are searchable by location](#), including New Mexico.

Federal jobs in environmental agencies, such as the National Park Service, can be [found online at USAJobs](#). There are also chapters of the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP) in [North Texas](#), [South Texas](#), and [Arizona](#) that post job openings in their regions.

These are just a handful of the professional organizations to check out for career opportunities throughout the Southwest. Department alumni are active in the planning, environmental, and GIS associations. At the University of New Mexico, the [Office of Career Services](#) has additional resources to help connect students and recent alumni. The [Department of Geography and Environmental Studies](#) also maintains a list of graduates from the masters program and where they have gone on to work. The Department has [information on internships](#) as well.



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**Share articles, updates, and photographs  
for the next issue!**

**Email contributions to:  
[unmGESalumni@gmail.com](mailto:unmGESalumni@gmail.com)**

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# Spatial changes are underway!

Chris Duvall

*Professor and Chair*

*Department of Geography and Environmental Studies*

Greetings from the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies! As we begin the Spring 2022 semester, we are settling into new spaces on campus.

Over the years, the department has made two major moves. The first one took Geography from Hodgkin Hall—where the UNM Alumni Association is now located—to the Bandelier buildings. This happened sometime in the 1980s—an alumn may recall the exact year. When I first arrived on campus, Prof. Brad Cullen regaled me with tales about the old Hodgkin Hall, which has been heavily renovated and improved since Geography moved out! Faculty and staff have shifted offices within the Bandelier buildings many times. In recent years, all faculty offices and the department administrative office have been located in Bandelier West, with graduate students and the spatial computing lab located in Bandelier East. Other departments also had space in Bandelier East until last spring, when we were given control of the all offices in the building in order to accommodate our growth.

This began the department's second major move. Since May 2021, departmental staff have made heroic efforts to get the newly acquired spaces ready for the department to use. It's hard to overstate the work needed to manage moving logistics during a pandemic, within a large institution, and into offices that hadn't been well maintained for years. We've finally resettled our administrative office into a renovated room 108 in Bandelier East. We're still working on the other rooms that are new for us, which will house faculty, grad students, and meeting rooms. Please watch for an invitation to an open house later this year, when we will have completed all the moving.

Finally, I must note the recent passing of a retired professor. In November, Prof. Elinore Barrett passed away at age 90. She was a scholar of settlement geography in 16th- and 17th-century New Mexico, the first woman to earn a Ph.D. in Geography at UC-Berkeley, and the first woman on the UNM Geography faculty. Prof. Barrett spent her whole career at UNM, and thus worked with many students—those who have remembered her to me recall a wonderful and caring teacher.

Best wishes to all in 2022!

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*please distribute this newsletter widely*

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*Bandelier East*



# Center for Advancement of Spatial Informatics Research and Education (ASPIRE) Update

2021 saw the Center for Advancement of Spatial Informatics Research and Education (ASPIRE: [aspire.unm.edu](http://aspire.unm.edu)) come back to life like many labs on campus, having started the year with almost everyone working remotely and ending the year with a hum of activity and growth. In addition to the excellent addition of **Dr. Yolanda Lin** and her students, ASPIRE also welcomed Geography and Environmental Studies alumnus (M.S. 2015) **Dr. Su Zhang** in the role of lab manager.

**Dr. Yan Lin's** work on toxin exposure on tribal lands has continued through new projects in cooperation with the METALS Superfund research program at the UNM College of Pharmacy and collaborators at Montana State University. This work, funded by the National Institute of Health (NIH) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is bringing cutting edge spatial models of exposure to the public health research taking place in New Mexico.

Dr. Yolanda Lin's work on consequence driven hazard modeling, funded by USGS in 2021, seeks to improve how hazard managers conceive of and execute more realistic hazard response scenarios such that municipalities and states are better prepared for future natural hazards.



GES doctoral student Rowan Converse in the field

**Dr. Chris Lippitt's** work to prototype an automated, drone-based waterfowl counting program for the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), with support from **Dr. Liping Yang**, continued and expanded to include the development of approaches to automate wildlife surveys from the USFWS camera trap network. While this wildlife sampling work leverages the latest in object-based neural network classifiers to allow computers to identify and count species from imagery more accurately and efficiently than ever before, it is the way in which the projects engage the public, including school children, to train these models while simultaneously gaining exposure to the concepts of wildlife sampling, data science, and robotics, that make these projects most exciting; so far the crowd has ID'ed over 230k birds from drone imagery. **Rowan Converse**, GES doctoral student, is working to measure the impact of participating in the project on school children's confidence and interest in pursuing a STEM education.

In a similar vein, ASPIRE began a collaboration with New Mexico's Bosque School to engage their students in drone-based mapping of porcupine populations in the Bosque, with the high school students completing ground surveys and GES M.S. student **Caleb Garret** mapping the same porcupines from the air as part of his thesis.

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*If you like this newsletter,  
please forward to a friend. Help us Build.*

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ASPIRE, and the GES graduate programs, also began the first full year of participating in the Museum Research Traineeship ([mrt.unm.edu](http://mrt.unm.edu)), a National Science Foundation funded National Research Traineeship focused on improving trainees' ability to leverage museum collections to answer big questions in science.

**Blair Mirka**, GES doctoral candidate and MRT participant, has spent the 2020-2021 academic year working with graduate students from Anthropology, Earth and Planetary Sciences (EPS), and Biology to better understand how to approach her dissertation work, which will use 3-D modeling of invertebrate samples from the Museum of Southwest Biology to train algorithms to automatically identify invertebrates sampled in the field using a cell phone. All incoming GES graduate students are eligible to apply to participate in the MRT program, which provides a substantial stipend and summer funding for participants in addition to excellent cross-training with students from three of UNM's most successful and prestigious graduate programs.

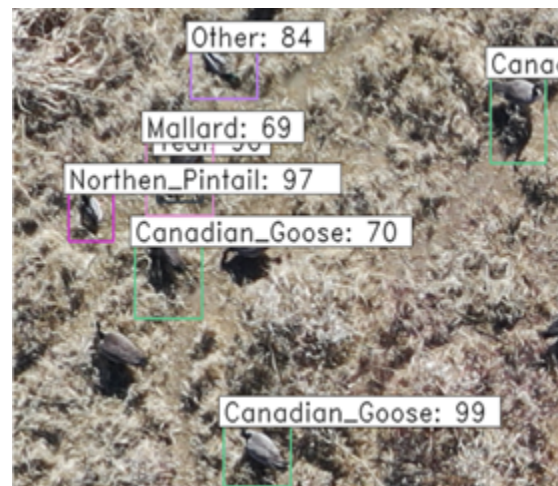
Many other things took place in the past year, too many to list here, but in the aggregate 2021 was a year of coming back together for the students, faculty, and staff in ASPIRE. The emptiness of 2020 has been filled, quite literally, with all 16 of our desks for funded graduate assistants filled, but also metaphorically, with faculty and student colleagues from many departments coming to ASPIRE to leverage its equipment and facilities, collaborators from across campus and the state are coming to ASPIRE for mapping services and support, and teams coming and going on their way to and from the field again. As we approach the end of 2021, we look to 2022 with a great deal of anticipation.



CENTER FOR ADVANCEMENT  
OF SPATIAL INFORMATICS  
RESEARCH & EDUCATION



## **Drones for Ducks!**



# CENTER FOR COMMUNITY GEOGRAPHY Updates

**Dr. Miriam Gay-Antaki**

*Assistant Professor, Geography and Environmental Studies*

*Associate Director, R.H. Mallory Center for Community Geography*

**Dr. Maria Lane**

*Assistant Professor, Geography and Environmental Studies*

*Associate Director, R.H. Mallory Center for Community Geography*

The R.H. Mallory Center for Community Geography at the University of New Mexico (UNM) continues to build community, partnership, and meaningful engagement with students, faculty, and neighbors through its mission to address critical human-environment issues throughout New Mexico. Our efforts to support mutually beneficial connections between UNM and our surrounding community have resulted in exciting geography focused projects and educational opportunities throughout 2021.

The Center for Community Geography had a great year thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of our partners, students, and collaborating faculty. Learn more about projects and events by visiting the newly updated [www.communitygeography.unm.edu](http://www.communitygeography.unm.edu). If you are interested in learning more, or wish to work with us, please contact [communitygeography@unm.edu](mailto:communitygeography@unm.edu).

In the meantime, please enjoy these highlights from our work in 2021:

- Visiting scholar **Dr. Geoff Buckley** of Ohio University headlined our first in-person colloquium in Fall Semester 2021. Dr. Buckley led a discussion on his urban geography research in Edinburgh, Scotland where local activists are taking advantage of a lull in massive city construction to campaign for an alternative vision of their neighborhood. Dr. Buckley spent a week in Albuquerque visiting local environmental leaders like Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge and discussing urban



*Drs. Maria Lane and Geoff Buckley by the new visitor center at Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge*

*photograph by Laurel Ladwig*

environments and movements for social and environmental justice with Center Director **Dr. Maria Lane**. The week wrapped up with a second event in which Dr. Buckley, **Dr. Natasha Howard**, UNM students, and members of the public discussed tree planting programs in Baltimore, as part of Dr. Howard's class on "The City" (GEOG 466/566).

- The Center supported a service-learning project with our local office of National Trails – National Park Service. Students from Critical Cartography (GEOG 413/515) created two StoryMaps to help connect community members to El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail. Using ESRI online, undergraduate and graduate students worked together to develop StoryMaps focused on the historical geography of agriculture and transportation in central New Mexico. Their cartographic contributions illustrate the important cultural and spatial connections made along El Camino Real that continue to make echoes today. View these vibrant StoryMaps on our website [here](#) and [here](#).

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- Graduate researcher **Joe Scala** worked in collaboration with Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge on their [ABQ Backyard Refuge Program](#). Joe used ArcGIS Online and ArcGIS Experience Builder to create a mapping tool that uses data collected by community members to identify opportunities for environmental restoration and enhancement that benefits people, birds, and wildlife.

- **COP26 Glasgow** Dr. Miriam Gay-Antaki had an opportunity to travel to the United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change Conference of the Parties in Glasgow (COP26) this November thanks to a Women in Stem Grant from UNM ADVANCE. The COPs are yearly meetings addressing global progress to reduce the negative impacts of climate change and greenhouse gas emissions and many powerful actors, governments, businesses, and NGOs participate in these conferences (this year over 100 heads of state attended). As the COP20 Paris Agreement held particular importance in climate summit history, as it convinced countries to agree to limit global warming to 1.5°C by the end of the century; COP26 was also important: it represented an opportunity to overturn the Paris Agreement. Thankfully, COP26 delivered on its primary goal of keeping the Paris Agreement alive. Other notable, yet fraught success was the incorporation of language supporting a “phase-down of unabated coal power.” Language is key here as this phrase was changed last minute from ‘phase-out’ to

‘phase-down’. This might be perceived as a small change, however in reality, it has enormous implications regarding countries’ actions to lower emissions. How these changes occur and how decisions are made at COPs is a central theme of Dr. Gay-Antaki’s research.

The Center is proud to be engaging with a wide variety of community partners to explore different ways that academic faculty and students can support important initiatives in our community. Our goal is to build strong partnerships, foster durable community engagement, and develop new resources to address environmental problems and information gaps important to stewarding the places we love. We encourage GES Alumni to reach out if interested in helping us deepen this work. We are happy to [be in touch](#) and discuss the possibilities for using geographic thinking and strategy to address the critical human-environment issues of New Mexico.

**Spring 2022 plans include:** new mapping projects in the South Valley and Tijeras Creek Watershed, a community workshop for new partners, campus leadership for the City Nature Challenge 2022 citizen science program, and a funding competition for UNM faculty and students interested in engaging community partners. If you would like to learn more about this opportunity, contact Dr. Miriam Gay-Antaki [mgayantaki@unm.edu](mailto:mgayantaki@unm.edu) or Dr. Maria Lane [mdlane@unm.edu](mailto:mdlane@unm.edu).

**Be sure to follow @nmcommunitygeog on Instagram and Twitter to see our work in real time.**



*Bandelier West*

# Sustainability Studies Update

## UNM alum Larry Cotter establishes Rosalind O. Womack Fund

The Sustainability Studies Program recently received a gift of \$2 million to establish an endowed fund by UNM alumnus Larry Cotter in the name of his beloved late wife.

The Rosalind O. Womack Fund will be used to support the Sustainability Studies Program's efforts to address our society's most pressing challenges, including climate change, fossil fuel dependence, and the need for more regenerative agricultural practices.

The Fund will be used to advance programmatic activities and projects that involve students and provide them with unique opportunities university wide. This includes, but is not limited to, support for courses that emphasize hands-on learning, internship opportunities and research programs that give students real world experience. The funding will also support student recruitment and outreach to help the program grow. You can read more about Laurence, his generous gift, and the intention behind it at <https://goto.unm.edu/rosalind>.

### Park Williams on the West's Changing Climate

Dr. Park Williams (UCLA) was the featured speaker for the Geography and Environmental Studies Department's annual Richard Murphy Memorial Lecture, co-sponsored by the Resilience Institute, the University's Grand Challenge for Sustainable Water Resources, the R.H. Mallory Center for Community Geography, and the Sustainability Studies Program.

Park's talk focused on his research evaluating records of wildfire occurrence and size in the western US from 1984 through 2020 (during which time annual burned area increased 300%). Emerging patterns point to a tenfold increase in forest fire area, showing that fire size increase rather than frequency affects burn area, and that fires ignited by lightning represent the highest growth in forest fire size. He found that continued work is needed to better understand the interacting effects of fuels and climate on western US wildfire in order to inform our expectations of future wildfire trends and decisions about how to better manage fire, fuels, and other related natural resources such as water. The talk was recorded and is available for viewing at <https://goto.unm.edu/murphy21>

During his visit, Dr. Williams met with GES faculty and students, discussing shared research interests, and spent time with Faculty & Students from various departments at the reception following his talk. It was an enriching experience for everyone involved—what we have come to look forward to each year with the Murphy Lecture.

**Richard Murphy** was the first department chair of what is now Geography and Environmental Studies. This lectureship was established by his family to honor his memory. The department owes its continued thanks to the Murphy family for the gift that makes the annual Murphy lecture possible.

### Vegan Hot Chocolate!

The Sustainability Studies Program gave students and faculty a much needed boost at the end of the fall semester on a chilly morning by giving out free, vegan hot chocolate outside Bandelier East! Weary students seem to appreciate the sentiment, and we got the word out about our programs and activities. You can learn more about the Sustainability Studies Program at Website: <http://sust.unm.edu> Social media: [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#) / [Twitter](#) Follow us!

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[sust.unm.edu](http://sust.unm.edu)





# GES Student News

## Critical Cartography Class Projects Published

Our student mapping project from last year's Critical Cartography class (GEOG413/513) was just published on the website of the National Trails—National Park Service (NPS). If you're interested in the historical geographies of transportation and/or agriculture in New Mexico, check out these great StoryMaps focused on a national historic trail that runs through Albuquerque:

### [StoryMap #1:](#)

Traversing  
El Camino  
Real de Tierra  
Adentro

### [StoryMap #2:](#)

Agricultural  
Connections  
Along El  
Camino Real



*El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro*

Our students worked with community partners to improve awareness of and access to the Camino Real corridor through Bernalillo County. I was really impressed with their creative approaches to the Camino's complex spatial histories. They used maps, images, audio, video, and original text to help viewers explore connections between our modern neighborhoods and the Indigenous, Spanish, and Anglo histories of movement and agriculture in the same places.

Kudos and special thanks to everyone who participated:

GEOG413/513 students: **Shannon Pepper, Michael Gurule, Camilio Calabaza, Marissa Heller, Ramona Malczynski, Sarigai Sarigai, Will Mehle, Kendyl Key,** ASPIRE and **Rowan Converse**, for helping us with the drone imagery

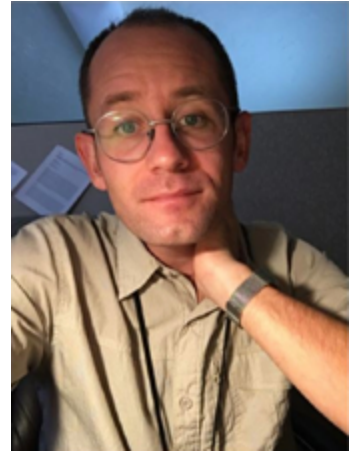
Sustainability Studies and **Brady McCartney's** "Heritage Farming Practicum" students, for sharing their audio interviews with farmers and agricultural professionals

**Desiree Loggins** of the Center for Community Geography, for working with NPS through the summer on final content and formatting

## GES Student Honored

*We asked GES PhD student Daniel Beene to tell us about his award:*

My advisor, **Dr. Yan Lin**, and I are honored to be the recipients of this year's Science for the Health of Indigenous Populations (SHIP) graduate research award. The scholarship is generously endowed by **Drs. Robert Duncan and Anette Sobel** to support graduate-level research aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of Indigenous communities.



My work focuses on using big geospatial data and modeling to improve our understanding of the social and cultural dimensions of exposure to environmental toxicants from abandoned uranium mines and other resource extraction activities on the Navajo Nation.

My personal motivations for pursuing this work are rooted in my understanding of what it means to occupy and navigate the same space as people with different identities, backgrounds, and experiences from my own. I grew up in New Mexico and my appreciation of the cultural tapestry of the US southwest is deeply personal, coming from friendships, education, and work. I enjoy the technical aspects of geospatial science, but my experiences with the diverse landscape and culture of the southwest inspire me to approach powerful tools, like the ones that GIS offers, with care and caution.

The SHIP committee also hosts an annual research symposium, which will be on April 8 this year. More details about the symposium are forthcoming and will be announced through the UNM Interdisciplinary Science Co-op.

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please forward to a friend, Help us Build.*

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# “How your geography degree has served you?”

*Tell us how your degree has served you for inclusion in future newsletters!*

## GES Alumna at Sandia National Labs

by Gabrielle Romero (BS '17)

While I do not directly work in the Geography field, I was able to land a very rewarding position at Sandia National Labs. I work in a cleanroom fabrication lab, producing semiconductors for micro/optoelectronics. I believe that I was hired because of my B.S. degree and various internships I had the opportunity to work on throughout my time at UNM. The skills I learned while pursuing my B.S. were fundamental in that I had a solid science background and have been able to easily use that knowledge and apply it to my current position. It has been an interesting journey and I credit being able to learn new skills and science applications quickly to my time at UNM pursuing my B.S. I hope that I can one day transfer to Sandia's new Climate Change Security department and apply the skills I learned in various climate courses at UNM to a rewarding career in the climate science sector. I am proud to represent the Lobos at Sandia, where there are a lot of brilliant minds from all over the country!

## Contribute to our summer newsletter!

We are already working on our Summer 2022 issue.

If you would like to contribute articles, updates, and/or photographs (with credit line & caption), email them to [unmGESalumni@gmail.com](mailto:unmGESalumni@gmail.com)



*Variegated fritillary and Checkered Skipper  
on a dandelion in a backyard refuge.  
photograph by Laurel Ladwig*

## As Seen on TV

by Robert Mallory (BA '90)

On the evening of Friday November 12th, I turned on the Television in preparation to watch Washington Week on PBS. I caught the tail end of New Mexico in Focus. Lo and behold, one of our very own, **Laurel Ladwig**, was being interviewed about her ABQ Backyard Refuge Program, which was the basis of her Master's Thesis. You can see the report on her [website](https://www.abqbackyardrefuge.org/) ([ABQbackyardRefuge.org](https://www.abqbackyardrefuge.org/)), and on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...).

Congratulations to Laurel for such fine work and getting the word out about her program. This is Geography in action and our alumni at work to improve our community. Read more about the program below.

## ABQ Backyard Refuge Program

by Laurel Ladwig (MS '20)

The goal of the ABQ Backyard Refuge Program is to create a mosaic of habitat across the city to provide resources for resident and migrating wildlife, and people, too! Habitat that gives wildlife a place to call home also makes our city more resilient to climate change. Adding habitat to urban landscapes can reduce water use, address urban heat island effect, and manage stormwater.

Everyone can contribute by sharing space with wildlife. From acreage with a pond, to pollinator plants in a pot on a patio, every bit of habitat counts! If you have a native plant or two and practice wildlife-friendly yard management or engage in a few conservation activities, you can certify your space as a backyard refuge!

Thanks to **Dr. Maria Lane**, the R.H. Mallory Center for Community Geography incredible partner to the program. Project Assistant [Joseph Scala](#) has built a mapping tool incorporating more-than-human citizen science data with social-ecological data to reveal environmental justice challenges and tell the story of conservation efforts in our city. We are actively using this map to identify areas for habitat projects and find synergy with our partners' programs. In addition, a Sustainability Studies intern is working with our community partners to grow pocket habitats across the city and develop outreach events.

You can see examples of certified habitat on campus at Lobo Gardens and the University Club. Visit our [website](#) or [email me](mailto:laurel@friendsofvalledeoro.org) ([laurel@friendsofvalledeoro.org](mailto:laurel@friendsofvalledeoro.org)) to learn more and join our efforts to care for our more-than-human community!

# Manager's Report - Fall 2021

Robert Mallory (BA '90)

We continue to build our Alumni Chapter even as the pandemic persists, and we are making good progress. We had a bit of magic occur with our Showcase Event, which was held on November 16th via Zoom. It consisted of 8 presentations made by students discussing their research topics. The whole premise was to see who could come in as close to 5 minutes as possible. We had times ranging from 4:01 to 5:58 minutes and the winner came in at 4:59. We set it up this way so that we were not judging content, only presentation timing skills. The topics were:

"Mapping Food and Housing Resources for UNM Students." - Ramona Malczynski

"Renewables for Reservations." - Yvonne Morales

"Enhanced Visitor Use Monitoring at Petroglyphs National Monument." - Rowan Converse

"Applications of Python GIS and Data Automation." - Will Mehle

"Dipping My Toes in Grant Writing and Professional Planning." - Brad Hanson

"Mapping Avalanche Risk." - Lindsey Rotche

"Jemez Forest Mapping for BIA Compliance." - Daniel Beene/Dayna Dominguez

"Critical Storymapping of the Historic El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro in New Mexico." - Desiree Loggins

The winner was **Ramona Malczynski** who came in at 4:59. This year's event was what I call "Version 0.9" as we were working to prove whether the concept was viable. The answer was a resounding "Yes." It is viable and something that we plan to expand this year.

One of the presenters was invited to lunch by a mentor to discuss job opportunities. Given that result, our plan is to develop a Mentor Network of Geography Professionals in Albuquerque who would be willing to take a presenter to lunch and discuss opportunities, possible connections, people they should talk to, links, ideas, etcetera. This is a way we can build our Alumni Family and further create the Alumni Chapter of the Future.

The concept of the Showcase Event was developed by **Robert Mallory**. **Dr. Maria Lane** recruited presenters and **Hayley Hajic** (MS '18) served as the moderator. If you would like to see the Event, here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6hvNID7YdKQ>

To be a mentor, watch the event and see if there is a topic you have experience with or are interested in. If so, let us know and we will make the connection. One of these days we will do this event in person so that we can build our network more naturally.

The Showcase Event was a great addition to the Geography Week activities and we hope to fully

*continued on page 12*



*Geography Awareness Week 2021*



develop the concept over the next few years. Please become a potential mentor and provide your wisdom to current students.

In other news: **Jacob Wolff** (MS '17) is planning a webinar on careers in environmental policy and management, which will be a companion to the Careers in Geography webinar which we produced in June of 2021, link here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u04Ez\\_gNX-g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u04Ez_gNX-g). If you are interested in being a panelist for this event, please contact Jacob.

The reason we are all working to build this alumni chapter is because Geography Matters. There are a lot of things that matter, but Geography and Geographic Studies are basic to our life on Earth. The more we know about our planet, the more we can preserve it for further generations. It all boils down to Geographers, so building a network of Friends who are interested in helping the Department thrive seems pretty darned important. Please help us build...

### ***A word about mentorship:***

As professionals, or retired professionals who have graduated from the UNM Geography Department since 1965, we should all support our program and

work to further its mission. Obviously, we all have a great interest in the planet Earth. If not, we would not be Geographers.

When I graduated from UNM, in 1990, the word "Jobs" was never, ever mentioned. Our task as the Geography Alumni Chapter is to make opportunities happen for our recent graduates. We are a family, and we need to act as a family. A family helps one another.

As a society we need more Geographers, so, we need to make opportunities for graduates. This way more people will be interested in the study of Geography. That is why mentorship is so important.

The only thing a mentor needs to do is talk to an interested student. There needs to be a common interest, but as an employed Geographer you need to share your insight. A good recommendation is to take a student to lunch and talk to them about the profession. The meeting should be over lunch and both should really concentrate on the subject, so no chit-chat, or get to know you stuff, but a frank discussion on what opportunities you see, and who to talk to and what strand to follow. So, if you invest an hour into someone's future, it just might be the drop of magic that ignites a career.

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## **In Memoriam**

We are sad to report that Dr. Elinore Magee Barrett, UNM Professor Emeritus, passed away on November 3, 2021 at the age of 90. Dr. Barrett was the first woman to be granted a PhD in Geography at UC Berkeley and became a faculty member of the UNM Geography Department in 1969.

I had a number of classes from Dr. Barrett and had the greatest respect for her. She was an amazing person. By far the greatest gift Dr. Barrett gave a lot of us was that she taught a course which used "Wilderness and The American Mind" written by Roderick Nash as the text. I have reread this book many times and with every reading gain from it.

Dr. Barrett helped build the Geography Department at UNM and leaves a great legacy. May she rest in peace. - Robert Mallory

*Dr. Barrett's obituary in the Albuquerque Journal can be found [here](#).*





# **GEOGRAPHY SPRING 2022 COLLOQUIUM SERIES**

**11 March, 3pm MST**

In person at NMSU & virtual

**Holli Kohl**

NASA GLOBE Observer coordinator

**"Citizen Science with NASA: Opportunities for New Science and Public Engagement"**

**25 March, 3pm MST**

In person at NMSU & virtual

**Jacqueline Vadjunec**

Professor, Oklahoma State

**"Opportunities for Geographers and Other Human-Environment Researchers at the National Science Foundation (NSF)"**

**April 8, 3pm MST**

Virtual presentation hosted by NMSU

**Meghan Kelly**

Durham University

**"Points and Pixels: Feminist approaches to mapping"**

**22 April, 3pm MST**

Virtual & in person at UNM

**Thomas DuPree**

University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center

**"The Politics of Baseline in the Grants Uranium Mining District of Northwestern New Mexico"**

<https://goto.unm.edu/22>



GEOGRAPHY SPRING COLLOQUIUM SERIES

# The Politics of Baseline in the Grants Uranium Mining District of Northwestern New Mexico

FRIDAY APRIL 22  
3:00 - 4:00 PM MST  
IN PERSON | VIRTUAL

MITCHELL HALL 102  
Register | <https://goto.unm.edu/22>

During the second half of the twentieth century, northwestern New Mexico served as the primary production site for one of the world's largest nuclear arsenals. From 1948 to 1970 the "Grants uranium district" provided almost half of the total uranium ore accumulated by the United States federal government for the production of nuclear weapons, in addition to becoming a national source for commercial nuclear energy from the late 1960s to the early 1990s.

By the twenty-first century, all uranium mining and milling in New Mexico had ceased, leaving a legacy of environmental health impacts. This lecture is based on an ethnographic study of the diverse forms of expertise involved in monitoring and managing the mine waste and mill tailings. Drawing from over two years of research, I will describe the relationship between different stakeholders about the possibility of cleaning up the former mining district.



Thomas De Pree, Ph.D.  
Postdoctoral Fellow, University of  
New Mexico Health Sciences

Thomas De Pree is an ASERT-IRACDA postdoctoral fellow at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, key personnel in the Community Engagement Core (CEC) of the UNM Metal Exposure and Toxicity Assessment on Tribal Lands in the Southwest (METALS) Superfund Research Program, and an instructor in Environmental Science at Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI). His academic research, teaching, and service are situated in the field of environmental anthropology, which combines ecological and ethnographic research methods to advance knowledge at the intersection of environment and society.



DEPARTMENT OF  
GEOGRAPHY &  
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES



SUSTAINABILITY  
STUDIES PROGRAM



# Alumni Communications

At the Department's website [geography.unm.edu](http://geography.unm.edu) under the "Keep in Touch" pull down menu there is a list of three Listservs which you might find interesting.

Colloquia & other department events:  
[publicgeo-L@unm.edu](mailto:publicgeo-L@unm.edu)

Job announcements:  
[GEOG-JOBS-L@LIST.UNM.EDU](mailto:GEOG-JOBS-L@LIST.UNM.EDU)

General updates from our chapter:  
[GEOG\\_ALUMNI-L@LIST.UNM.EDU](mailto:GEOG_ALUMNI-L@LIST.UNM.EDU)

These Listservs are a great way to stay in contact with current events and goings on at the department.

To sign up, follow these steps:

**Send an email to [listserv@list.unm.edu](mailto:listserv@list.unm.edu)**

**Leave the subject line blank**

**In the body of the email type: "subscribe (name of the listserv) and your first name and last name" ONLY.**

You will receive a confirmation email right back. These listservs are very easy to unsubscribe from and instructions for that are listed not eh "Keep in Touch" page as well.

In addition to this newsletter, you can sign up for our eBlast which will keep you abreast of goings-on in the department and community in addition to future virtual alumni events. Please post to the GES alumni listserv whenever you have news or events that might be of interest to fellow alumni. The alumni listserv is an expedient way to get timely information to our community. This newsletter will be published a few times a year and we look forward to this being a forum for sharing articles about both academic and professional work. Please contribute articles about your professional and community projects or applications of geographic research. You can send contributions for either forum to [UNMgesAlumni@gmail.com](mailto:UNMgesAlumni@gmail.com). We'd also like to expand our collection of "executives" who can take on different projects. A great addition to the communications team would be someone who would like to take on our social media presence. We are working to keep our alumni connected, especially during this pandemic, and want more alumni to join us in this effort!

# Chapter Business

Help us keep your contact information accurate:

On the UNM Alumni Association Website:  
[www.UNMALUMNI.COM](http://www.UNMALUMNI.COM)

Under "Chapter & Groups" navigate to: "UNM Geography & Environmental Studies Alumni Chapter"

About half way down on the page you will see at red bottom marked "Membership Form"

Please click on that and fill in your information. This will provide the most accurate information to the Association for distribution of The Mirage, our newsletter and any other alumni-related information.

# Support our Department!

For many alumni, there is a strong desire to make a difference in our world by supporting future generations of students. If you have been touched by your experience with the Department of Geography at UNM, and would like to support our work, please consider contributing to one of the following funds.

R.H. Mallory Center for Community Geography:  
<https://www.unmfund.org/fund/r-h-mallory/>

Brad Cullen Geography Grad Student Fund:  
<https://www.unmfund.org/fund/brad-cullen/>

Richard Murphy Memorial Scholarship in Geography: <https://www.unmfund.org/fund/richard-murphy-memorial-scholarship-in-geography/>

Friends of Geography Fund: <https://www.unmfund.org/fund/friends-of-geography-fund/>

Department of Geography and Environmental Studies Chair's Fund: <https://www.unmfund.org/fund/geography-and-environmental-studies-chairs-fund/>

Our sincerest thanks go to all of you who have already donated.

If you would like more information about contributing to the Department of Geography, please feel free to contact [Diana.Martinez@unmfund.org](mailto:Diana.Martinez@unmfund.org).

## **Our Mission:**

**"To provide a platform for professional development and networking for Geography Professionals in the New Mexico Region."**

### ***How do we fulfill our Mission?***

Create a professional network that is welcoming to GES students during their academic program and job search.

Host/facilitate networking events for GES students and alumni, by whatever means appropriate.

Notify the geography department of job openings in your specific field.

Work with the geography department to identify or provide internship opportunities for students.

### ***How do we do that?***

We communicate and we network.

Our members can do things like:

Ask a Student to Dinner (when COVID-19 allows)

Take a Student to Lunch (when COVID-19 allows).

If you have an interesting career, share it. Ask a student or small group of students to tour your facility (when COVID-19 allows), speak to geography classes about what you do, and, most importantly, be a Mentor.

A Mentor can be an email buddy, phone buddy, or any interaction and support, basically.

Volunteer to be a Mentor and talk about Geography and help us build the Geography Alumni Chapter of the UNM Alumni Association of the future and innovate ways forward toward a better earth-focused future.

Become an Executive and help us build by managing an activity, task or project. We use the word Executive for these positions because an Executive has the autonomy to make day-to-day decisions without approval. This reduces administrative drag on projects and initiatives.

### ***How do you become a Mentor or an Executive?***

Contact us at: [UNMgesAlumni@gmail.com](mailto:UNMgesAlumni@gmail.com) or through our

Alumni Relations Officer, Scott Sanchez at: [scottsanchez@unm.edu](mailto:scottsanchez@unm.edu)

***One last thought. If you like this newsletter and dialogue with the chapter, please forward this newsletter, or our sporadic eBlasts, to others you know who would enjoy and benefit from it. Help us build.***