

**AY2024 Year-end Review Newsletter****A Message from the Chair**

In AY2024, the Department of Geography and Anthropology helped transform our students through liberal arts education that empowers them to understand the human condition, to meet the challenges of the 21st century, and to become contributing citizens in a global society. As a department of excellence in the Norman J. Radow College of Humanities and Social Sciences, we are uniquely positioned to balance a liberal arts education with STEM training and career readiness. With three majors, three minors, and two professional certificates, our department enhances student success through a wide range of high impact practices including internships, undergraduate research, and service-learning.

Thanks to sustained college support, AY24 saw the department's research expenditures more than double from the previous year expanding our state-of-the-art lab facilities and research initiatives. To enhance KSU's general education offerings, the department added two new natural sciences options for non-science and non-engineering majors: Introduction to Biological Anthropology and The Digital Earth. These additions to the general education curriculum offer all KSU

students a critical opportunity to better understand the complexities of peoples and places. AY24 also saw the retirement of Professor Matt Wilson RLS who provided three decades of service to Southern Polytechnic State University and KSU as a senior member of the surveying faculty. Matt oversaw several transitions of the degree program and helped establish five surveying and mapping student scholarships with industry partners. Additionally, congratulations to Academic Advisor Matt Waller who was promoted to Senior Lecturer of Geography. I wish to thank our award-winning advisor Christine Jacobs, our exceptional staff – Program Coordinator Susanne Rothery and Administrative Assistant Adam Tarrant – and our hard-working faculty and students. Thanks for another amazing year!

Brandon D. Lundy, Ph.D.  
Chair and Professor of Anthropology

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## Advancing Community and Culture

### GSS Night



The 25th anniversary of KSU's **GSS Night** took place on Wednesday, November 8 from 6:30-9:00 pm at Dry County Brewery in Kennesaw. The faculty fundraised \$4,350.00 to make the event a success. There were 104 guests in attendance including 22 alumni, 21 faculty and staff, 48 students, and 13 community partners. We want to thank all the sponsors of 2023 GSS Night including: InterDev, LLC; SAM Companies; Timothy Poe; Watts & Browning Engineers, Inc.; GeoSurvey, Ltd.; Georgia Land Surveying Co.; Georgia Geospatial Association; RDD+C. LLC; Chris Hawk; Gouri Vishnubatra; Uli K. Ingram; Ranbir S. Kang; Leo A. Ladefian; Herbert J. Mattord; and Raymond J. Goslow.

- **Scholarships**

- GeoSurvey Scholarship: Evan Lofton
- John C. Gaskins Endowed Scholarship: Francis Blackmar; Nicholas Staat
- Rochester Scholarship: Shirley Grace; Taylor Hornbuckle
- Atwell Surveying Scholarship: Luz Caraballo Mende

- **Awards**

- Outstanding GIS Certificate Student - AJ Sherrell
- Rebecca Mattord Outstanding Achievement Award - Tyler Nuttall
- Outstanding Geospatial Sciences Student - Derek Schmidt
- GSS Community Engagement Award - Georgia Geospatial



AJ Sherrell



Tyler Nuttall



Derek Schmidt



Georgia Geospatial

## Department takes Center Stage in Radow's [365 Days of Learning and Service: Sustainability](#)

With two faculty on Norman J. Radow College of Humanities and Social Sciences 365 Days of Learning and Service steering committee, our department was well represented in the programming throughout AY24. [Dr. Vanessa Slinger-Friedman](#) helped launch the program on September 21, 2023, and contributed to the campus sustainability tour leading various university and community stakeholders through the field station and KSU Food Forrest on October 27, 2023.



Our department was part of the UnCANny Creations food drive and won the food sculpture build on November 8, 2023. The judges were impressed with both the quantity of food items collected and the creativity of the build. In total, 1,500 food items were collected across the college, doubling the collection from last year. This generosity will help many students at KSU.

Jason Rhodes alongside the EcoOwls student club hosted a Geography and Anthropology Department Sustainability Film Series throughout the year with four film screenings.



## University invests big in the department!



The University awarded the department two one-time-funding requests to support university and department initiatives totaling more than \$100,000. Geospatial Sciences and Land Surveying faculty member Mostafa Arastounia was provided with an RTC 360 terrestrial laser scanner and drone for his research into LiDAR, laser scanning, and infrastructure. Vanessa Slinger-Friedman was awarded funds to expand her sustainability initiatives – the KSU Food Forest and OwlSwap.



The KSU Food Forest is an official Living Learning Lab for KSU. As such, it provides hands-on experiential learning and research opportunities for KSU students. In AY24, the KSU Food Forest hosted 118 KSU and community volunteers who provided 341 hours of service, this included the accounting firm of Ernst and Young who provided volunteers during both Fall and Spring semesters. During this time, we also provided over 135 KSU faculty, staff, and students and other community members with educational events including a monthly Friday in the Food Forest, demonstrations of drone flying and 3D scanning with Leica, and workshops for groups including a cohort from Diverse and Inclusive Excellence. The KSU Food Forest applied for and was awarded a \$50,000 USDA SARE (Sustainable Agriculture

Research and Education) grant for 2024-2026. As harvests increase, the KSU Food Forest continues to provide fresh fruit and vegetables to KSU CARES, MUST Ministries, and Free99Fridge to help food insecure students and community members.



As an official KSU Living Learning Lab, OwlSwap educates about the importance of environmental and social sustainability in the fashion and textile industry, specifically the harm of fast fashion in today's world of overconsumption. In AY24, OwlSwap continued serving both KSU campuses through hosting monthly clothing swaps, supplying professional clothing for all career fairs, and running the clothing closets, providing free clothes to all students, faculty, and staff. During this time, OwlSwap received 7,558 donated items (valued at \$53,820.70) and donated 4,664 items of clothing (valued at \$32,740.30) out of the two closets. OwlSwap's swaps, community outreach, and upcycling events also provided opportunities for 174 volunteers who provided 332.5 hours of service. In Spring 2024, OwlSwap was awarded a Campus Climate Action Corps half-time member. The focus of this AmeriCorps program is direct service to campus and community with the focus of Climate Change initiatives. In Fall 2024, OwlSwap is specifically focusing on expanding our successful OwlSwap program into the community with a pilot program of mini OwlSwap closets in local High Schools.

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## **Enhancing Undergraduate Educational Experiences**

### **Innovative Pedagogy**

The department's outstanding teaching faculty were heavily featured in the [2023-2024 Innovative Pedagogy report](#) published by the RCHSS Office of Academic Innovation. Of the 49 honorees, our department made up more than one third. Department honorees for innovative pedagogy included Mostafa Arastounia, Erinn Bariteau, Nick Ellwanger, Mac Garcia, Alice Gooding, Uli Ingram, Ranbir Kang, Susan Smith, Paul McDaniel, Mark Patterson, Terry Powis, Nancy Pullen, Teresa Raczek, Jason Rhodes, Allen Roberts, Vanessa Slinger-Friedman, Jun Tu, and Ken Williamson.

### **International Archaeology Day**

Students celebrated International Archaeology Day (October 19, 2024), a global event where archaeological organizations host programs and activities for people of all ages and interests.

At the event, attendees could participate in excavations on a site that reveals items dating back to the late 13th century. Discoveries included prehistoric projectile points, pottery sherds, stone bowl fragments, and historical items. The excavations provide insights into prehistoric Native American life and shed light on the relationship between the residents of Cummings and Etowah.

During International Archaeology Day, Associate Professor of Anthropology Terry Powis, KSU student Bill Davidson, and the Etowah Valley Historical Society of Bartow County successfully raised \$1,700 for the W.W. Davidson International Archaeology Scholarship. This scholarship is specifically designed to support archaeology students who plan to attend a field school somewhere in the world for course credit. They initiated this fundraising effort in 2017 with a target of \$25,000.

Donate to the W.W. Davidson International Archaeology Scholarship by selecting the Department of Geography and Anthropology and designating the gift to the Davidson Archaeology Scholarship [here](#).



## The Material Life of Museums



Dr. Teresa Raczek taught a 2024 Maymester class, **The Material Life of Museums**. With college support, Dr. Raczek and her students visited eight museums – Carlos Museum, Fernbank Museum, Tellus Science Museum, Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, Etowah Indian Mounds, KSU Archives, KSU Rare Books Museum, KSU Museum of History and Holocaust Education, KSU Zuckerman Museum – and met with 23 museum professionals who work in a wide variety of museum jobs including curation, education, exhibitions, management, and marketing. As a result of the class, one student was already hired for a part time job, and another got an on-the-spot interview for a summer job. Five other students are in talks with museum staff to plan fall internships. The museum staff were welcoming and want to continue to find ways to support and partner with anthropology classes in the future.



## **Greek Osteology Field School – Having a High Impact on Anthropology Students**

In the summer of 2024, six anthropology majors were given the opportunity to work with Dr. Susan Kirkpatrick Smith at the Institute for Aegean Prehistory Study Center for East Crete to learn how to conduct bioarchaeological research. This research-based study abroad program has been in operation since 2007. It allows students to engage in several high impact practices in one program: international education, undergraduate research, a capstone experience, and an intensive writing experience.

In addition to students receiving an intensive research experience, they also go on field trips hosted by international scholars, attend lectures at the Study Center, and live in a small village in one of the most beautiful settings you can imagine.

One of the advantages of this program is that the cost is so much less than many other study abroad programs. Due to this, and the fact that students can elect to attend for either two or four weeks, the Greek Osteology Field School has been able to serve students from diverse backgrounds that might not be able to go on other study abroad adventures. The program has successfully served students who are parents, those with full-time jobs, students on needs-based financial aid, or some who just are not ready for a long time away.

The impact of the Greek Osteology Field School can be seen by the number of participants who have gone on to graduate or professional schools or used their experience in Crete to help further their career trajectories. Our students at KSU are fortunate to be able to participate in this program, which is the only undergraduate bioarchaeology field school offered by a USG institution.



Students learning to use an osteometric board to measure clavicles



A visit to Roman Tombs



A short boat ride to the archaeological site of Mochlos

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## **Double Owl Pathways Promote Graduate Education**

While the department currently does not offer any graduate degrees or certificates, many of our faculty regularly work with and supervise students at the master's and doctoral levels both at Kennesaw State and at other institutions. You may not be aware that the department currently offers four [Double Owl](#) pathways. Double Owl pathways afford undergraduate students the opportunity to obtain their undergraduate and graduate degrees faster and at a significantly lower cost than if they pursued each degree independently. By bundling both degrees into pathways, highly motivated and committed students can graduate sooner than their peers and with a head start on their careers. The department offers pathways from anthropology into a Masters in Conflict Management, American Studies, or Art and Design – Museum Concentration. The department offers a pathway from geospatial sciences in the Masters in Information Technology.

## Promoting Interdisciplinary Research with Relevance

### Faculty Publishes in *Nature!*



Dr. Terry Powis' research into absorbed residues, examining ancient drinks and foods that ancient civilizations consumed, led to a major publication focusing on the origins of chocolate published in the highly prestigious [Nature: Scientific Reports](#), which is the fifth most-cited journal in the world.

### Department Faculty Receive Prestigious NSF Grant for 3-year Study



AY24 was the first of a three-year, \$313,827.00 research initiative in the department funded by the National Science Foundation's Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences Cultural Anthropology program combining cultural research and sustainability. Led by the department's economic anthropologist Dr. Brandon D. Lundy, the research team is made up of an interdisciplinary group that includes geographers and geospatial scientists Drs. Nancy Pullen and Mark Patterson, and Dr. Monica Swahn, an alcohol epidemiologist.



In collaboration with the University of Cabo Verde (Uni-CV), the project studies the dynamics of artisanal alcohol, known locally as grogue, and its impacts on Cabo Verdean communities. On the Uni-CV side, the project includes a specialist in anthropology and rural development, Maria de Lourdes Silva Gonçalves, and a chemical engineer and manager of ETAConsulting, Elisângelo Monteiro. The study focuses on understanding how grogue, an integral part of Cabo Verde's cultural heritage, is perceived and managed by local communities, both in urban and rural contexts. The research seeks to discover how this alcoholic tradition can simultaneously reinforce and challenge local livelihoods under constrained economic conditions. To date, the team has carried out

extensive fieldwork with involvement of KSU and Uni-CV students leading to publications in [The Conversation](#) and [Economic Anthropology](#).

## Hosting the Georgia Academy of Science



Anthropology faculty Teresa Raczek and Terry Powis led other KSU faculty in planning and hosting the [101st annual meeting of the Georgia Academy of Science](#) for two days in March 2024. Several anthropology, geography, and GIS majors volunteered to help the event run smoothly, which was well organized thanks to the efforts of staff member Susanne Rothery. The meeting opened with a keynote speech by Dr. Ebony Glover, KSU Psychology, who gave a talk entitled, “Representation Matters: Examining Social and Biological Differences in Biomedical Research.” This was followed by a reception at Tellus Science Museum, which opened its doors to the GAS for the exclusive evening event. Over 250 faculty and

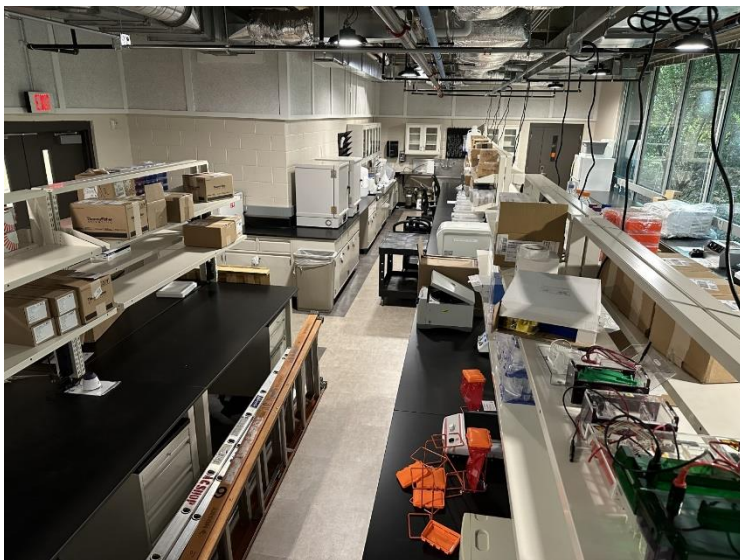
student scholars from across the sciences presented over 80 papers and posters. Friday afternoon, our department showcased the Biological and Anthropology and Archaeology Labs for drop-in visits by attendees.

Several Geography and Anthropology faculty presented at the GAS. Dr. Ranbir Kang gave a paper entitled, “Application of Terrestrial LiDAR in Analyzing the Restoration of an Urban Stream.” Dr. Alice Gooding presented a paper with student Andy Kellos, “Developing a decision tree model and protocols for the ethical accession and curation of human remains in teaching collections.” Dr. Brandon Lundy, Dr. Mark Patterson, and Dr. Nancy Pullen gave a paper with Dean Monica Swahn, “Contested values and sustainable livelihoods of artisanal alcohol in Cabo Verde.” Dr. Terry Powis gave a paper, “Buried beneath our feet: Early Maya architecture under the Mayan plazas at the ancient Maya site of Pacbitun, Belize.”

In addition, anthropology student Reagan Earnhart presented, “Analyzing the process of archaeological curation: A case study from the Civil War site at Pickett’s Mill” and anthropology students Ellie Sutherland, James Tadin, and Ian Foster presented, “From stone bowls to pottery vessels: Early woodland life at the Cummings Site in north Georgia.” Geography student Ethan Manigbas presented, “Generating channel morphology data using GIS.”

KSU has long been an active participant in GAS, with faculty frequently serving in leadership roles of the organization.

## Department Expands Research Facilities



AY24 saw the continued rapid growth of the department’s research facilities with college and university support. Social Sciences 4080 became the dedicated **Archeology Laboratory**. This was possible when geographers Brad Suther and Ranbir Kang established the new **Geomorphology Lab** in Visual Arts room 108 which houses a full size fume hood, sinks with hot and cold water, a top-freezer refrigerator, two sonic sifter sieving devices, multiple sieve sets, one analytical and two precision balances, three reciprocating shakers, two drying ovens, a benchtop muffle furnace, a centrifuge, a stereomicroscope, an ultrasonic bath, standard glassware, and other laboratory hardware. Field equipment includes various augers for soil sampling, a Russian peat corer, handheld GPS units, and surveying equipment. The **Biological Anthropology Lab** in Social

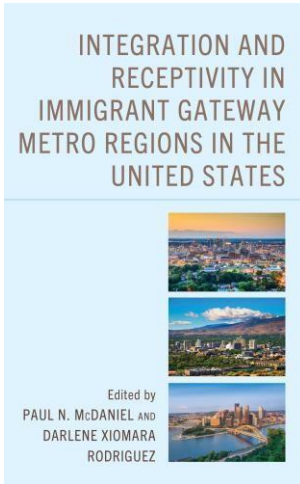
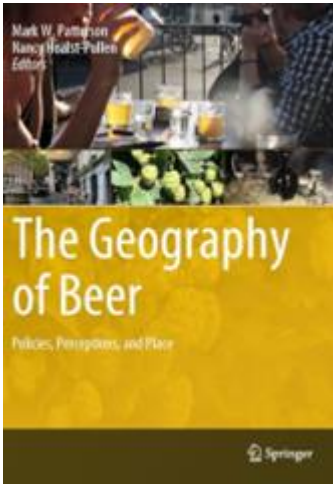
Sciences 3019 expanded its bone casts including the purchase of Australopithecus afarensis "Lucy" skeleton, Homo Ergaster skeleton, 11 fossil Hominin evolution skulls, set of 6 fossil Hominid tools from East Africa, and much more. The **Bone Biomechanics Lab** was moved to the new Social Sciences Lab Complex, freeing up that space for high powered computers with high graphic rendering and memory utilization. Students are getting research training in 3D



landscape modeling of point cloud data in this new **Student Research Lab** in Social Sciences 3002. These expanded state-of-the art laboratory facilities help our faculty lead the way in undergraduate research and high impact practices both in and outside of the classroom.



## Faculty Scholarship



In AY24, department faculty published 2 books, 7 book chapters, and 4 journal articles. They presented their work at 17 international, 8 national, 4 regional, 1 state, and 9 local venues. In AY24, department faculty were awarded 16 grants and sponsored research (2 federal, 2 state, 1 private, 2 local, 7 internal, 2 other) in the amount of \$615,845.00. Funders included Affordable Learning Georgia, US Bureau of Justice, National Science Foundation (NSF), AS&G Archaeological Consulting, Georgia Humanities, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Atlanta Global Research & Education Collaborative (AGREC), and United National Development Program (UNDP).

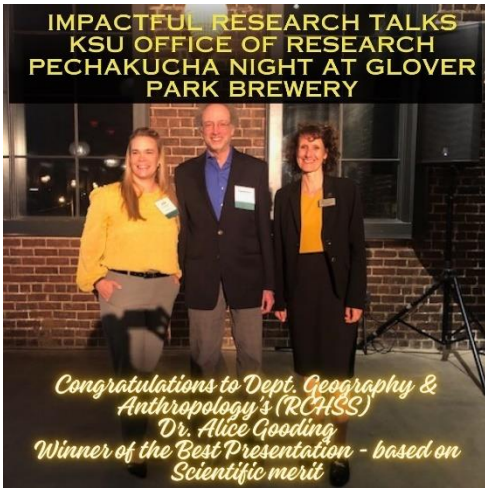
## Department Awardees: Making a Difference



Congratulations to Associate Professor of Geography Dr. Paul McDaniel on receiving the Norman J. Radow College of Humanities and Social Sciences **2024 Outstanding Online Teaching Award!** This award recognizes strong commitment to high quality online teaching that engages students, builds presence and fosters community in the virtual environment, and promotes student success. Dr. McDaniel regularly incorporates use of geospatial technology in his online courses, including use of ArcGIS Online, StoryMaps, and Google Earth for virtual field trips and course activities and projects, allowing not only geography and geospatial sciences majors, but students from many other majors, additional opportunity to engage with these technologies. He also often uses his own photos from his extensive travels in class lectures and discussions to highlight examples of human geography and physical geography studied in each course.



Congratulations to our student assistant, Grant Baxter! Grant was selected by the faculty and staff of the Norman J. Radow College of Humanities and Social Sciences (RCHSS) as the recipient of the **2024 Above the Call for Student Assistants Award**. We are so proud of his accomplishments and recognition throughout our college.




Congratulations to Dr. Alice Gooding, winner of the Best Presentation based on Scientific Focus at the KSU Office of Research PechaKucha Night at Glover Park Brewery. Dr. Gooding presented “The Dirty Work of True Crime: The Communities Behind Your Favorite Shows.”





[Kennesaw State University's OwlSwap Program Earns Global Recognition as AASHE Sustainability Award Finalist](#)

[Radow College Professor, Dr. Vanessa Slinger-Friedman receives Keep Cobb Beautiful 2023 Environmental Education Award](#)

2024 Geography and Anthropology Department Outstanding Seniors/Scholars Award




**“The world is your oyster! The biggest advantage to being an anthropology major is the ability to shape it to your desires”**

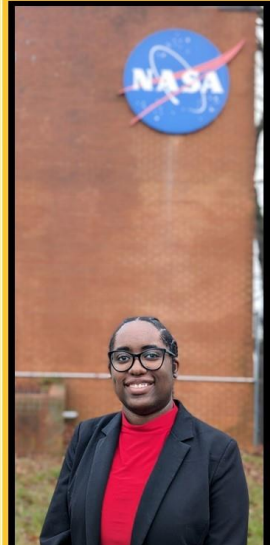



*Congratulations!*  
**Maygui Jean**  
*Outstanding Senior in Anthropology 2024*  
*Anthropology*

**Maygui Jean** is an outstanding student in classes and has engaged in incredible research and study abroad opportunities. She was accepted in KSU's Behavioral Health Community Engagement program, which allowed her to work with marginalized youth in rural Georgia. She participated in a study abroad program in Botswana related to public health. During a directed applied research opportunity, she investigated a new data system for recording osteological data and presented it at the Symposium for Student Scholars. She has plans to attend med school and is currently studying for the MCAT.

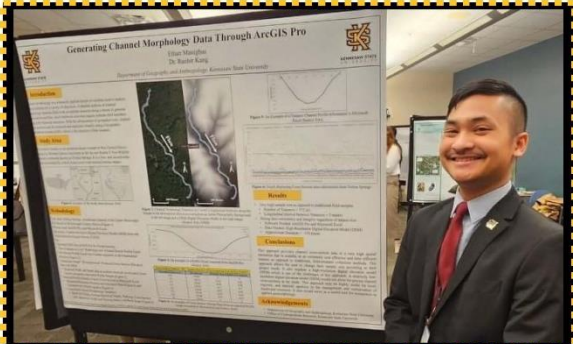


**Studying geography is a lot like unraveling the story of our planet. I think it's exciting to explore the everchanging interactions between our physical world and the activities of the people who inhabit it**



*Congratulations!*  
**Chanice Brown**  
*Outstanding Senior in Geography 2024*  
*Geography*

**Chanice Brown** is an honors student and has a passion for understanding and protecting local communities. She has taken advantage of several interdisciplinary opportunities at KSU, such as undergraduate research, study abroad, and internships, that have allowed her to strengthen her skills in hazards research while also developing her knowledge of geospatial technologies, GIS mapping, community health, and spatial analysis. Chanice has earned a certificate in GIS and was a Lindy Radow Scholar. Her GIS practicum was completed at the highly prestigious 10-week NASA DEVELOP Program at the University of Virginia.



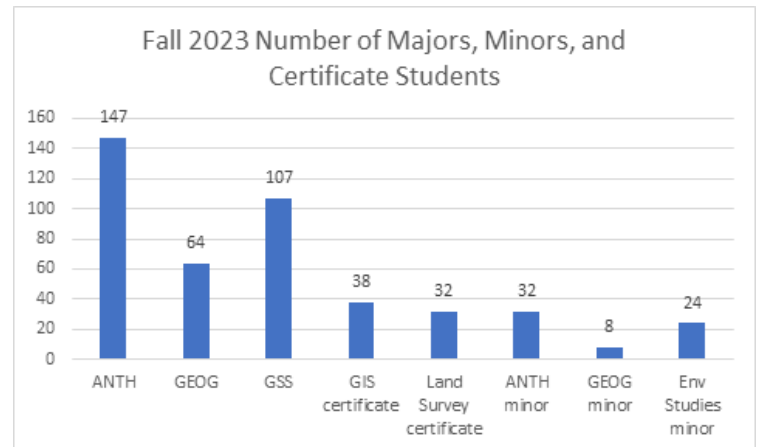
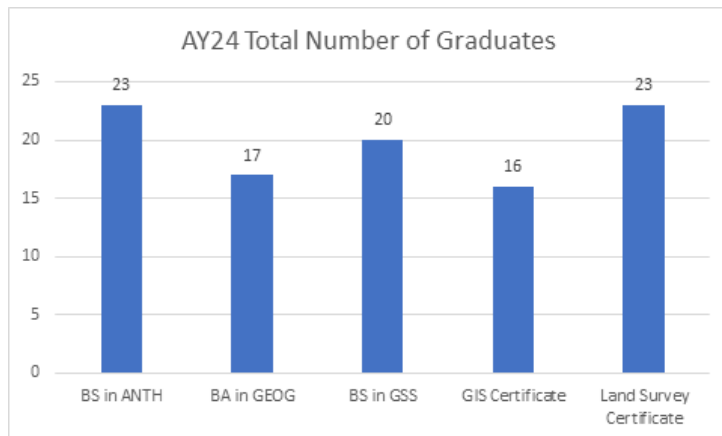
*Congratulations!*  
**Ethan Manigbas**  
*Outstanding Scholar*  
*Geospatial Sciences*  
**2024**

While pursuing his degree, Ethan has represented the department and the GSS degree program by volunteering at GSS night, the Atlanta Science Festival and Esri's Southeast User Conference. Outside of his academics, he has committed time for research under guidance from Dr. Kang to apply industry-level GIS technologies and practices to analyze river morphology and to present those findings at university and state-level research and sciences conferences. Ethan will continue developing himself professionally to become a more proficient and learned GIS professional as he transitions into the GIS industry by continuing his employment as a network design technician in the telecommunications sector.

**Ethan Manigbas** is an outstanding and well-rounded student scholar in Geospatial Sciences. While pursuing his degree, he represented the department and the GSS degree program by volunteering at events: Annual Geospatial Sciences Night, the Atlanta Science Festival, and Esri's Southeast User Conference. Outside of his academic pursuits, Ethan has also committed time for research under guidance from one of his professors to apply industry-level GIS technologies and practices to analyze river morphology and to present those findings at university and state-level research and science conferences. Following graduation, Ethan will continue developing himself professionally to become a more proficient and learned GIS professional as he transitions into the GIS industry and continues his employment as a network-design technician in the telecommunications sector.

## By the Numbers

- Offered 121 general education courses to 5,986 students generating 20,468 credits.
- Provided high-impact practices to 235 students including practicums, internships, undergraduate research, and field and lab-based experiences.
- The department's original AY24 operational budget was \$68,275. Research expenditures totaled \$237,057.66 with \$81,983.38 coming from the Norman J. Radow College and \$108,000 awarded by the university in one-time funding to support faculty initiatives.
- In AY24, the department graduated 60 students with bachelor's degrees and awarded an additional 39 certificates.



## Welcome!



The department welcomed Dr. Mostafa Arastounia as a full-time assistant professor of geospatial sciences. The year prior, he held that position as a limited term faculty member. With a Ph.D. degree in geomatics engineering from the University of Calgary, Dr. Arastounia brings years of experience in automated recognition and modeling of objects from laser scanning (LiDAR) data, bringing industry and infrastructure experience to our GSS and land surveying students.

## Looking forward to AY2025

- Expanded laboratory facilities (Pilcher 3D printing and student research lab)
- Two new anthropology fulltime lecturers, Matt Davis and Dr. Shim Geru.
- One new geography fulltime lecturer, Dr. Dave Doran.
- Save the Dates:
  - Welcome Back Cookout (August 22, 2024)
  - Anthropology Open House (October 1, 2024, tentative)

- Geography/Geospatial Sciences Open House (October 10, 2024, tentative)
- International Archaeology Day (October 19, 2024)
- GSS Night (November 11, Horned Owl Brewery)
- Geography Awareness Week (November 11-17, 2024)
- World Anthropology Day (February 20, 2025)
- Atlanta Science Festival (March 22, 2025, Piedmont Park)
- Earth Day (April 22, 2025)



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