

## 2022 Treasurer's Report

### Southeastern Division of the American Association of Geographers

#### Financial Summary

**As of November 16, 2022, the total assets of SEDAAG are \$216,474.44 an increase of \$11,023.44 from last year's meeting.\*** Of these assets, \$55,353.56 is considered Reserve Funds and \$25,400 represents the Scholarship Fund (Executive Committee Direction at 2012 Annual Meeting). Appendices I and II provide itemized details on all assets and transactions from December 1, 2021, for both the checking account and the money market account (the organization's tax year runs from December 1 to November 30 each year). Note: In February 2022, our organization's bank accounts officially changed from SunTrust to Truist Bank, due to the merger of SunTrust and BB&T to form the new Truist Bank. As such, the previous 2020-2021 SEDAAG President (Lynn Ressler) and Treasurer (Amy Potter) remained on the account until February 14, 2022, at which time the new 2022-2023 SEDAAG President (Bill Graves) and Treasurer (Paul McDaniel) were added to the account and previous president and treasurer were removed.

#### Revenues

**As of November 16, 2022, total revenues since December 1, 2021 were \$42,392.71, a decrease of \$9,987.74 from the previous tax year.** This revenue total includes interest earnings, membership dues, conference registrations, journal surplus/royalties, and AAG's contribution to SEDAAG. Revenue includes membership dues processed through the *Southeastern Geographer* journal publisher (\$4,300), an increase from \$2,338 the previous year, and fiscal year surplus/royalties for *Southeastern Geographer* from UNC Press (\$15,673.81). The 2021 SEDAAG annual meeting in Florence, Alabama, resulted in revenue of \$20,603.03 (\$19,315 from AAG and \$1,288.03 from UNA). The AAG again contributed \$1,500 to support SEDAAG in 2022. Revenue totals should be viewed as returning more to normalcy compared to the previous year in 2021 when we had received the remaining funds in the Project Muse Royalties account that had accumulated over several years.\*

**\*Project Muse Royalties** At the end of FY13 the journal incurred a deficit, which UNC Press agreed to cover, with the understanding any future surpluses would be used to offset that and any future deficits, while allowing SEDAAG the option to request all or a portion of those reserve funds when needed. By April of 2020, the reserve account was \$44,819.30. We received \$34,000 of those funds in 2020 and received the remaining funds and royalties (\$26,846.60) in 2021 when the account was dissolved.

#### Expenditures

**As of November 16, 2022, total expenditures since December 1, 2021, were \$29,678.56, up from \$26,333.09 in the previous tax year.** The most significant expenditures were \$10,000 to UNC-Greensboro to support management and editorship of the *Southeastern Geographer* (Executive Committee Direction at 2014 Annual Meeting) and \$17,632.76 to the Shoals Marriott Resort and Spa to cover SEDAAG 2021 annual meeting expenses in Florence, Alabama. Other major expenditures included 2020 Annual Meeting awards/plaques/World Geography Bowl winners, etc. (\$2,045.80). An additional SEDAAG 2022 Atlanta meeting expense of \$2,918.52 (to Cherry Convention Services for rental,

installation, and removal of poster board display walls) is pending as of the writing of this report (Note regarding the 2022 meeting in Atlanta: a \$12,500 deposit for the SEDAAG 2022 Annual Meeting in Atlanta was paid during the previous tax year and is reflected in the expenditures report in the previous year's budget report presented at the 2021 annual meeting). As of the writing of this report, there has not yet been a request for a deposit to be paid for the 2023 SEDAAG meeting scheduled in Norfolk, Virginia. Note: SEDAAG annual budget supports Status of Women in Geography breakfast and the SAGE lunch held at the Annual Meeting.

### **SEDAAG Membership**

**As of November 7, 2022 (date of most recent membership report from the journal publisher), SEDAAG membership has decreased slightly (277 members) from the membership numbers reported in the previous year (301) in 2021, but is still higher than 2020 membership (160).**

Non-student membership decreased from 180 to 137, while student membership increased from 121 to 140 members. While membership has certainly rebounded since 2020, considering the size of the SEDAAG region and compared to the previous decade our membership numbers are still concerning and warrant **ongoing discussion and planning**. Appendices III, IV, and V, provide details on total, non-student, and student membership trends, respectively, from 2010 to 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul McDaniel

Treasurer, SEDAAG, Kennesaw State University

### **Appendix I: Checking Account**

Date	Description	To/From	Note	Deposit	Withdrawal	Balance
1-Dec-21	Balance					\$11,315.98
7-Dec-21	Check # 1138	Avery Caterwood (sp?)	Masters Paper Award		(\$500.00)	\$10,815.98
13-Dec-21	Mobile Deposit	UNC Press	SEDAAG Membership Dues	\$1,101.00		
13-Dec-21	Mobile App Transfer from Money Market Account	Transfer from Money Market Account	Transfer from Money Market Account	\$20,000.00		\$31,916.98
22-Dec-21	Check # 1136	Sanica Manglaker (sp?)	Undergrad Poster Award		(\$250.00)	\$31,666.98
23-Dec-21	Check # 1134	Megan Porter	Prunty Award		(\$500.00)	
23-Dec-21	Check # 1140	Shoals Marriott Hotel and Spa	SEDAAG Conference		(\$17,632.76)	\$13,534.22
31-Jan-22	Balance					\$13,534.22
1-Feb-22	Balance					\$13,534.22
4-Feb-22	Mobile Deposit	UNC Press	SEDAAG Membership Dues	\$2,037.00		\$15,571.22
23-Feb-22	Mobile Deposit	AAG	2021 SEDAAG Conference Revenue	\$19,315.00		\$34,886.22
28-Feb-22	Balance					\$34,886.22

7-Mar-22	Mobile Deposit	University of North Alabama	2021 SEDAAG Conference Revenue from UNA Dept of Geog (Email Note from Mike Pretes: "The amount that we have to contribute to SEDAAG is \$1288.03. This is the amount that we raised minus our expenses here (reception venue, venue set up, catering, music, shuttle buses, program printing).").	\$1,288.03		
8-Mar-22	Check # 5001	Dr. Dawn Drake	Reimbursement for SEDAAG World Geography Bowl MVP Plaque and Shipping		(\$45.80)	
28-Mar-22	Check # 5003	Audrey Smith	AAG World Geography Bowl SEDAAG Team		(\$150.00)	
31-Mar-22	Check # 5002	Alexander Perry	AAG World Geography Bowl SEDAAG Team		(\$150.00)	\$35,828.45
4-Apr-22	Check # 5006	Micah Arnholt	AAG World Geography Bowl SEDAAG Team		(\$150.00)	
11-Apr-22	Mobile Deposit	AAG	2022 World Geography Bowl Subsidy	\$300.00		
14-Apr-22	Check # 5005	Jordan Fazio	AAG World Geography Bowl SEDAAG Team		(\$150.00)	
29-Apr-22	Balance					\$35,828.45
23-May-22	Mobile Deposit	UNC Press	SEDAAG Membership Dues	\$462.00		
31-May-22	Balance					\$36,290.45
1-Jun-22	Check # 5008	UNCG Department of Geography Environment and Sustainability	Southeastern Geographer Editorial Stipend (Selima Sultana and Paul Knapp at UNCG)		(\$10,000.00)	
30-Jun-22	Balance					\$26,290.45
22-Jul-22	Check # 5007	Nick Chastain	AAG World Geography Bowl SEDAAG Team		(\$150.00)	
29-Jul-22	Balance					\$26,140.45
31-Aug-22	Balance					\$26,140.45
19-Sep-22	Mobile Deposit	AAG	FYE 22 AAG Contribution	\$1,500.00		
19-Sep-22	Mobile Deposit	UNC Press	FY 22 SEDAAG/SG Surplus	\$15,673.81		\$43,314.26
1-Nov-22	Mobile Deposit	UNC Press	July-Sept 2022 Dues	\$700.00		\$44,014.26

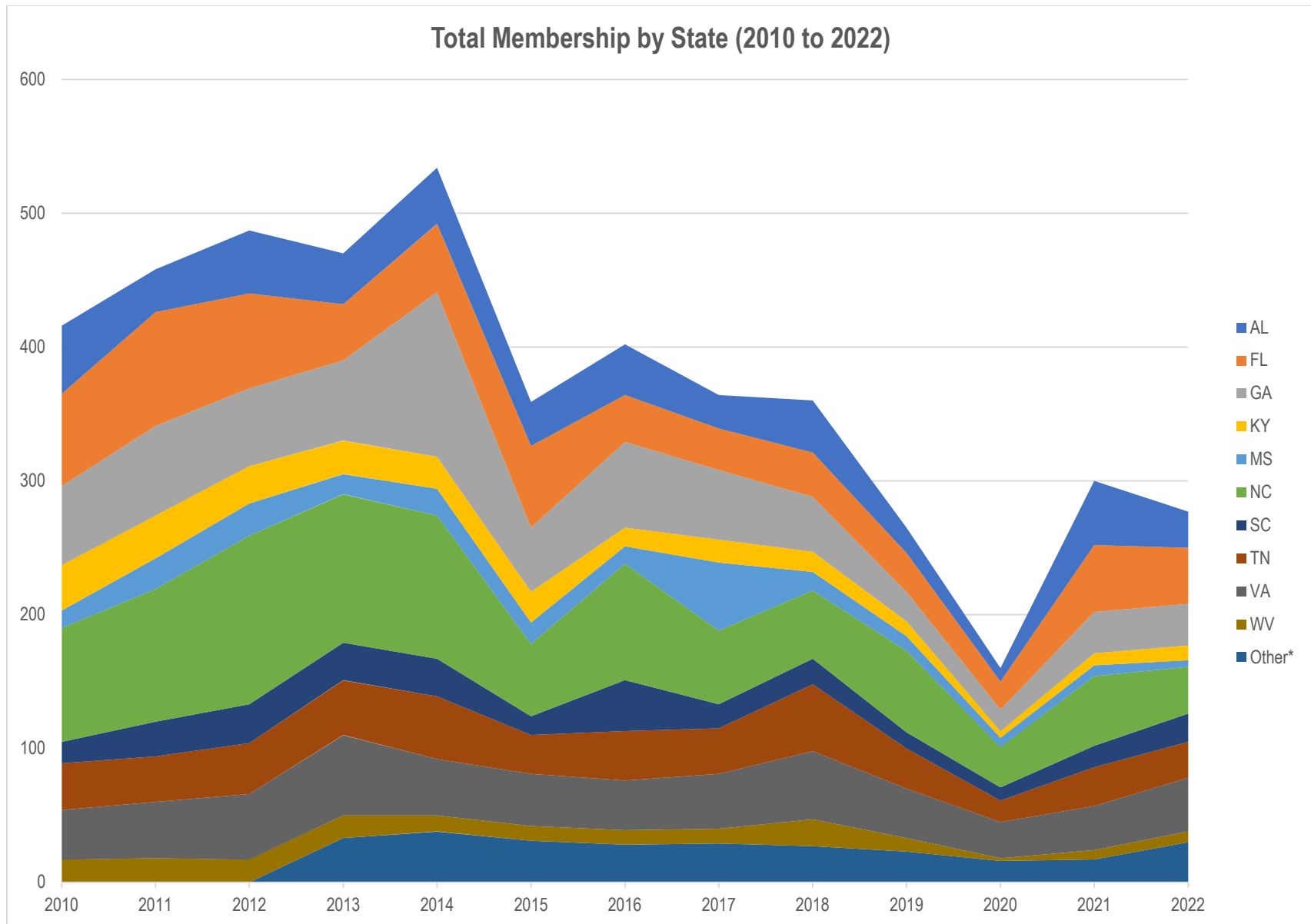
## Appendix II: Money Market Savings Account

Date	Description	To/From	Note	Deposit	Withdrawal	Balance
13-Dec-21	Mobile App Transfer	Transfer to Checking Account	Transfer to Checking Account		(\$20,000.00)	
31-Dec-21	Interest Paid This Statement		Interest	\$1.53		\$172,445.84
31-Jan-22	Interest Paid This Statement		Interest	\$1.46		\$172,447.30
18-Feb-22	Interest Paid This Statement		Interest	\$0.99		\$172,448.29
28-Feb-22	Interest Paid This Statement		Interest	\$0.33		\$172,448.62
31-Mar-22	Interest Paid This Statement		Interest	\$1.46		\$172,450.08
29-Apr-22	Interest Paid This Statement		Interest	\$1.42		\$172,451.50
31-May-22	Interest Paid This Statement		Interest	\$1.46		\$172,452.96
30-Jun-22	Interest Paid This Statement		Interest	\$1.42		\$172,454.38
29-Jul-22	Interest Paid This Statement		Interest	\$1.46		\$172,455.84
31-Aug-22	Interest Paid This Statement		Interest	\$1.46		\$172,457.30
30-Sep-22	Interest Paid This Statement		Interest	\$1.42		\$172,458.72
31-Oct-22	Interest Paid This Statement		Interest	\$1.46		\$172,460.18

## Appendix III: Total Membership

State	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2021-22 % Change	State
AL	51	32	47	38	42	33	38	25	39	19	10	48	27	-44	AL
FL	69	85	71	42	51	61	35	31	33	29	21	50	42	-16	FL
GA	59	67	58	60	123	48	64	52	41	22	16	31	31	0	GA
KY	34	32	28	25	24	23	14	17	15	11	5	9	11	22	KY
MS	13	23	24	15	20	16	13	51	14	11	7	8	5	-38	MS
NC	85	99	126	111	107	54	87	55	51	61	30	52	35	-33	NC
SC	16	26	29	28	28	14	38	18	19	12	10	16	21	31	SC
TN	35	34	38	41	47	29	37	34	50	30	16	29	27	-7	TN
VA	37	42	49	60	42	39	37	41	51	37	27	33	40	21	VA
WV	17	18	17	17	12	11	11	11	20	10	2	7	8	14	WV
Other*	-	-	-	33	38	31	28	29	27	23	16	17	30	76	Other*
<b>Total</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>-8</b>	<b>Total</b>

\* "Other" includes AR (2), CO, DC, IA, IL, LA (2), MD (4), MI (2), MO (3), NY, OK, PA (2), RI, TX (2), WI, WY, Germany, Brazil, Netherlands, and China.



#### Appendix IV: Non-Student Membership

State	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2021-22 % Change	State
AL	26	22	39	25	19	21	19	16	21	10	10	22	10	-55	AL
FL	39	50	35	30	29	33	17	18	17	24	14	25	16	-36	FL
GA	28	22	26	27	45	19	27	23	21	18	12	12	16	33	GA
KY	20	20	20	18	20	16	11	14	10	8	5	7	4	-43	KY
MS	10	13	16	9	13	11	10	28	9	8	6	7	4	-43	MS
NC	52	57	70	62	61	38	43	32	30	32	20	30	19	-37	NC
SC	14	17	14	17	14	12	21	14	13	11	6	11	6	-45	SC
TN	28	21	17	18	22	13	20	13	22	15	7	16	12	-25	TN
VA	31	32	30	31	26	20	20	27	33	24	22	26	21	-19	VA
WV	14	16	14	15	11	10	8	8	12	10	1	7	5	-29	WV
Other*	-	-	-	28	20	21	17	18	16	16	13	17	24	41	Other*
<b>Total</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>-24</b>	<b>Total</b>

\* "Other" includes: AR (2), CO, DC, LA (2), MD, MI (2), MO (3), NY, OK, PA (2), RI, TX (2), WI, WY, Brazil, Netherlands, and Germany.

#### Appendix V: Student Membership

State	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2021-22 % Change	State
AL	25	10	8	13	23	12	19	9	18	9	0	26	17	-35	AL
FL	30	35	36	12	22	28	18	13	16	5	7	25	26	4	FL
GA	31	45	32	33	78	29	37	29	20	4	4	19	15	-21	GA
KY	14	12	8	7	4	7	3	3	5	3	0	2	7	250	KY
MS	3	10	8	6	7	5	3	23	5	3	1	2	1	-50	MS
NC	33	42	56	49	46	16	44	23	21	29	10	22	16	-27	NC
SC	2	9	15	11	14	2	17	4	6	1	4	5	15	200	SC
TN	7	13	21	23	25	16	17	21	28	15	9	13	15	15	TN
VA	6	10	19	29	16	19	17	14	18	13	5	7	19	171	VA
WV	3	2	3	2	1	1	3	3	8	0	1	0	3	-	WV
Other*	-	-	-	5	18	10	11	11	11	7	3	0	6	-	Other*
<b>Total</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Total</b>

\* "Other" includes: IA, IL, MD (3), and China.



## ***Secretary and Webmaster Report***

1. As of our last update (November 7<sup>th</sup>) we currently have 287 SEDAAG Members, the highest it's been in the last two years.
2. Moving forward, we should be intentional about our use of social media.
3. Feel free to email updates to the website as you see them. The Secretary does not get added to all communications so omission of active committee members, award recipients, etc largely depend on other committee members directly communicating those to the Secretary/Webmaster.
4. Logo changes that may be necessary due to the name reversion.
5. We have a repository of >1000 people requesting our newsletter. However, when we send out information in the newsletter <10% open the newsletter. Is this a viable communication tool moving forward? We may want to consider ways to get around university IT email filters.
6. Requesting alterations to the website or requests for new web pages.
7. I would like to welcome Mark Sciuchetti from Jacksonville State University to the role of Secretary moving forward and thank him for his service. I thank SEDAAG for the opportunity to serve in this capacity and will be happy to be of service in this transition period.

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## Alabama SEDAAG Survey Summary: 2021-2022 Academic Year

Prepared by Dr. Jordan Cissell, Assistant Professor at Samford University

### A. Institutional Information

Approximately 9 universities in Alabama offer courses and/or degrees in geography or related fields. Eight of these universities responded to the 2022 SEDAAG Survey. The contacts and program information for these eight departments are summarized in the table below:

**Table 1. Universities Responding to the 2021-2022 SEDAAG Survey**

Institution	Department and Survey Contact	Geography Degrees Offered
Auburn University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Department of Geosciences</li><li>Dr. Luke Marzen</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>B.A. in Geography</li><li>Minor in Geography</li><li>Undergraduate Certificate in GIS</li><li>M.S. in Geography</li><li>Ph.D. in Earth System Science</li><li>Graduate Certificate in GIS</li></ul>
Auburn University at Montgomery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Department of Biology and Environmental Sciences</li><li>Dr. Gabe Costa</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>M.S. in GIS</li></ul>
Jacksonville State University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Department of Chemistry and Geosciences</li><li>Dr. L. Joe Morgan</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>B.S. in Geography</li><li>B.S. in Geography - Geospatial Technology</li><li>Minor in Geography</li><li>Undergraduate Certificate in Drone Piloting and Spatial Data Analytics</li><li>Undergraduate Certificate in Sustainable Trail Science</li><li>M.S. in Geographic Information Science and Technology</li></ul>
Samford University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Department of Geography and Sociology</li><li>Dr. Jennifer Speights-Binet</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>B.S. in Geography</li><li>B.S. in Geography with Concentration in GIS</li><li>Minor in Traditional Geography</li><li>Minor in Environmental Studies</li><li>Undergraduate Certificate in GIS</li><li>Graduate Certificate in GIS (in partnership with Department of Biological &amp; Environmental Sciences)</li></ul>
Troy University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Department of Geospatial Informatics</li><li>Dr. Xutong Niu</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>B.S. in Surveying and Geomatics Sciences</li><li>B.S. in GIS with Geography Concentration</li><li>Minor in Geography</li><li>Minor in GIS</li><li>Minor in Surveying and Geomatics Sciences</li><li>Minor in Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)</li><li>M.S. in Social Science with Geography Concentration</li></ul>
University of Alabama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Department of Geography</li><li>Dr. Matthew Therrell</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>B.S. in Geography</li><li>B.A. in Geography</li><li>B.S. in Environmental Science</li><li>Minor in Geography</li><li>Minor in GIS for Geography Majors</li></ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minor in GIS for Nonmajors</li> <li>• Minor in Environmental Studies</li> <li>• Undergraduate Certificate in GIS</li> <li>• M.S. in Geography</li> <li>• Ph.D. in Geography</li> <li>• Graduate Certificate in GIS</li> </ul>
University of North Alabama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Geoscience</li> <li>• Dr. Michael Pretes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B.S./B.A. in Geography</li> <li>• B.S. in GIS</li> <li>• B.S. in Sustainability</li> <li>• Minor in Geography</li> <li>• Minor in GIS</li> <li>• Minor in Geology</li> <li>• Minor in Geospatial Human-Computer Interaction</li> <li>• Minor in Sustainability</li> <li>• Undergraduate Certificate in Business GIS</li> <li>• Undergraduate Certificate in Remote Sensing</li> <li>• Undergraduate Certificate in Community Development and Planning GIS</li> <li>• Undergraduate Certificate in Environmental GIS</li> <li>• Undergraduate Certificate in GIS</li> <li>• M.S. in GIS</li> </ul>
University of South Alabama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Earth Sciences</li> <li>• Dr. Carol F. Sawyer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B.S. in Geography</li> <li>• Minor in Geography</li> <li>• Minor in Geographic Information Science and Technology</li> </ul>

## B. Trends in Student Enrollment in Geography Courses

Enrollment in **undergraduate** geography courses is *increasing* at Auburn University and Samford University, and it is *stable* at Jacksonville State University and the University of Alabama. At Troy University, enrollment was previously *stable* before a recent *decrease* in Spring 2022. At the University of North Alabama, enrollment is *increasing* in introductory physical geography courses, *decreasing* in introductory world regional and human geography courses, and *stable* for upper-level courses. At the University of South Alabama, enrollment has been *stable* the past two academic years but is down from 2019-2020 numbers.

Enrollment in **graduate** geography courses is *increasing* at Auburn University, Jacksonville State University, and the University of Alabama, and it is *stable* at Auburn University at Montgomery and the University of North Alabama. At Troy University, enrollment was previously *stable* before a recent *decrease* in Spring 2022.

## C. Trends in Geography Majors

The number of **undergraduate** geography majors is *increasing* at Auburn University and Samford University; *stable* at Jacksonville State University, the University of Alabama, and the University of North Alabama; and *decreasing* at the University of South Alabama.

The number of students in **graduate** geography programs is *increasing* at Auburn University, Jacksonville State University, and the University of Alabama. It is *stable* at Auburn University at Montgomery and the University of North Alabama.

## D. Trends in Course Offerings

Auburn University's course offerings are *increasing*, particularly for physical geography and GIS courses. Auburn University at Montgomery's offerings are *stable*. Jacksonville State University's course offerings are *stable* at the undergraduate level and *increasing* at the graduate level. Samford University's offerings are *increasing*, particularly for GIS courses. Troy University's offerings are *decreasing*. The University of Alabama's offerings are *stable* at the undergraduate level and *increasing* at the graduate level, particularly for human geography and geospatial techniques courses. The University of North Alabama is *increasing* the number of physical geography courses and *decreasing* the number of world regional and human geography courses, in response to changes in student demand. The University of North Alabama is also moving its graduate GIS program entirely online beginning in Fall 2023. The University of South Alabama's offerings are *increasing*, particularly for planning and GIS courses.

## E. Jobs for Geography Graduates

Jobs in government and GIS are the most prevalent, with both fields reported by 5 of the 8 surveyed departments. Auburn University reported GIS, urban and regional planning, resource management, engineering, government, and graduate school; Auburn University at Montgomery reported government and business; Jacksonville State University reported utilities, government, and technology; Samford University reported GIS, grad school, business, and education; Troy University reported GIS and teaching; the University of Alabama reported GIS and government science; the University of North Alabama reported GIS; and the University of South Alabama reported government, planning, and GIS.

## F. Personnel

**Table 2. Personnel**

University	Department Head	Full-Time Geography Faculty	Part-Time Geography Faculty	New Geography Faculty
Auburn University	Dr. Ming-Kuo Lee	9	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Jake Nelson</li> <li>• Hiring planetary science faculty in next year</li> </ul>
Auburn University at Montgomery	Dr. Chelsea Ward	2	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No new faculty</li> </ul>
Jacksonville State University	Dr. L. Joe Morgan	7	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No new faculty</li> </ul>
Samford University	Dr. Jennifer Speights-Binet	4	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No new faculty</li> </ul>
Troy University	Dr. Xutong Niu	2	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No new faculty</li> </ul>
University of Alabama	Dr. Matthew Therrell	15	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Nitasha Sharma, Lecturer</li> <li>• Dr. Rafiq Islam, Lecturer</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hiring 3 new faculty in next year</li> </ul>
University of North Alabama	Dr. Michael Pretes	5	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No new faculty, but merged with Department of Earth Science, which added 2 Earth Science faculty to department</li> <li>Hiring earth science / sustainability faculty to start in Fall 2023</li> </ul>
University of South Alabama	Dr. Sytske Kimball	5	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Fabian Terbeck (joining in January 2023)</li> </ul>

## G. State of Geography

The State of Geography in Alabama is varied. Auburn University and the University of Alabama both reported growth in their graduate programs. Auburn University at Montgomery, Samford University, Troy University, the University of North Alabama, and the University of South Alabama all commented on the challenges of recruiting undergraduate geography majors and/or the ongoing need to proactively articulate the value of geography to students, to the university, and to the state in general. **Each department's complete response is quoted below:**

**Auburn University:** "Since Geography joined the College of Sciences and Mathematics in 1999 we have seen the addition of the MS program and access to a related PhD program. The number of Geography full time faculty has grown from 4 to 9 with 6 tenured/tenure track faculty, and 3 lecturers. The addition of the MS program has helped to provide teaching assistants for our classes and with the increase in faculty teaching loads have decreased. As mentioned above, we have a departmental goal of increasing the number of undergraduates in both geography and geology."

**Auburn University at Montgomery:** "We have a Master's degree in GIS and our enrollment is low. Our main issue is recruitment. We also have a limited number of faculty and we offer the option to complete the degree online but we also offer hybrid and face to face classes so international students can meet their visa requirements. The scheduling of classes is a major challenge."

**Jacksonville State University:** No response to this question.

**Samford University:** "I always say that our department is "small but steady" in terms of departmental profile and growth. We constantly have to define geography and articulate our value at every level of the university. Our faculty are particularly good at connecting with other departments and schools across the university. We recently refined our Environmental Studies Minor to incorporate more courses from other departments and make the minor truly

interdisciplinary. We also recently revamped our GIS Certificate program and got our introductory GIS course approved as a general education course, and we are already seeing increased interest in GIS among students. We serve a lot of majors (including public health, environmental science, and marine science) through our course offerings, but that so far has not translated to a lot of these students becoming geography majors.”

**Troy University:** “Overall, the number of students taking geography courses in our university is declining. Students are not required to take Geography courses any more as a part of Gen Ed requirements. There is less need in offering Geography courses to undergraduate students. The need in offering graduate courses in geography is stable. Most of these graduate students are from social sciences. If they take six graduate-level courses in geography, the students can be certified to teach geography courses in K-12 schools.”

**University of Alabama:** “The state of geography in terms of our department is mostly very good. The only negative is the number of undergraduate majors ~55 is somewhat low. Our grad student numbers are good (41, 21 PhD). Our external grant funding is excellent, our institutional support is very good.”

**University of North Alabama:** “Geography is receiving less attention and visibility at our institution, but we are working to counteract this trend through activities and social media use. Our merger with Earth Science will help enhance our visibility. Our main competition for majors is Computer Science and Computer Information Science, as well as a variety of new programs such as Outdoor Recreation.”

**University of South Alabama:** “A negative impression of Geography exists in the State of Alabama, with public schools perpetuating that myth by teaching students in middle school the “quintessential” geography (i.e., memorize the states, etc.). The state also excludes those with Geography degrees from being hired as an Environmental Scientists with the state environmental agency, further limiting ways to promote Geography. At this institution, students typically change their majors to Geography as either a sophomore or junior. The field of Geography and the careers it can offer students is not understood nor respected by many within the institution, including in the department (the department is tri-disciplinary), freshman advisors, and the college.”

## **H. State of SEDAAG**

Auburn University offered several suggestions for increasing student and faculty involvement in SEDAAG, including changing the timing of the annual meeting and engaging students through awards, travel funding, and paid service opportunities at the annual meeting. Samford University commended SEDAAG as a strong regional conference and suggested that SEDAAG consider adding more paper sessions to keep pace with growth in annual meeting participation. The University of North Alabama encouraged SEDAAG to offer more student awards and explore avenues for attracting more students from underrepresented groups. The University of South Alabama commended SEDAAG’s organization strength and reported that scheduling conflicts between the annual meeting and a regional festival make it difficult for faculty to attend the annual meeting. Auburn University at Montgomery, Troy University, and the University of Alabama

reported limited interaction with SEDAAG, but positive impressions so far. **Each department's complete response is quoted below:**

**Auburn University:** “These suggestions are from Dr. Chandana Mitra: (1) Reach out to each university in SE US to get more faculty and students involved. (2) Change the timing of the annual meeting so it doesn't interfere with Thanksgiving break. (3) Recruit and pay students from member universities to work at the annual meeting in various activities. (4) Have more student awards including travel awards. (5) Acknowledge faculty for research, mentoring, service, etc. (6) Encourage university members to setup booths at the annual meeting promoting research and graduate programs for recruiting.”

**Auburn University at Montgomery:** “I am not familiar with SEDAAG.”

**Jacksonville State University:** No response to this question.

**Samford University:** “We consider SEDAAG a great, strong, healthy regional conference. Our department contributes significantly to SEDAAG service and leadership, and we actively participate in the annual meeting each year. We are committed to taking students to SEDAAG each year. SEDAAG may need to consider adding an additional paper session / time block to the program. In recent years the program has felt tightly overlapping, with lots of good presentations happening at the same time and a risk of missing out.”

**Troy University:** “This is the first time I have interaction with SEDAAG since my background is in Geomatics/Remote Sensing/Land Surveying. I have received a couple of emails recently from SEDAAG about their activities. I am assuming that two geography faculty members in the department have had more interaction with SEDAAG than I did. I really appreciate this type of communication. I hope to have more interaction with SEDAAG in the near future.”

**University of Alabama:** “I don't have a lot of experience with SEDAAG. I've only been twice, but I enjoyed the meetings. I wouldn't say it's particularly important to most of our faculty or grad students, but I hope it is becoming more so.”

**University of North Alabama:** “I think SEDAAG is doing very well. It would be nice to see more people interested in serving as officers and on committees, and being involved with the organization. I think SEDAAG should consider offering more student awards. SEDAAG also needs to find ways to attract more students from underrepresented groups such as African-American, Hispanic, and LGBTQ+.”

**University of South Alabama:** “For our program, it is difficult to attend the annual regional meetings because of when they are held (Sunday-Monday before Thanksgiving). Our school does meet the week of Thanksgiving and the week before, our program participates in an in-person four-day regional festival (Wednesday-Saturday) as a recruitment event; between these two factors, faculty simply do not have the time to attend the conference. Newer faculty have also been attending the December AGU meeting as their fall conference. As a strength, SEDAAG is very well organized and governed.”

## Florida SEDAAG Survey Summary: 2022-2023 Academic Year

Summary prepared by Dr. Johanna Engström, Assistant Professor at University of Florida

### A. Institutional Information

Ten universities in Florida were identified as offering degrees and/or courses in geography or related fields. Six out of these institutions completed the 2022 SEDAAG Survey. The contacts and degree information for these four departments are summarized in the table below (Table 1).

**Table 1. Universities Responding to the 2020-2021 SEDAAG Survey**

Institution	Department and Survey Contact	Geography Degrees Offered
Florida Atlantic University	Geosciences Department Dr. Zhixiao Xie	B.A. in Geosciences B.S. in Geosciences M.S. in Geosciences Ph.D. in Geosciences Certificate in GIS Certificate in Remote Sensing
Florida State University	Department of Geography Dr. Mark Horner	Bachelor's degree in Geography Bachelor's degree in Environment and Society M.A. in Geography M.S. in Geography M.S. GIScience Ph.D. in Geography
Jacksonville University	Department of Sustainability, Geography, and Environmental Planning Dr. Ray Oldakowski	B.A. in Sustainability, Geography, and Environmental Planning B.S. in Sustainability, Geography, and Environmental Planning
Stetson University	Department of Environmental Science and Studies Dr. Benjamin Tanner	Geography-related classes
University of Florida	Department of Geography Dr. Jane Southworth/Johanna Engström	B.A in Geography B.S. in Geography M.A. in Geography M.S. in Geography Ph.D. in Geography Certificate in Geospatial Information Analysis Certificate in GeoAI Certificate in Medical Geography Certificate in Meteorology and Climatology
University of North Florida	Department of Economics and Geography Dr. Russell Triplett	Geography-related classes

## B. Personnel

Table 2 below gives an overview of the number of faculty in the surveyed departments.

**Table 2. Personnel**

University	Department Chair	Full-Time Geography Faculty	Part-Time Geography Faculty	New Geography Faculty
Florida Atlantic University	Dr. Zhixiao Xie	7	2	This year: 0 Next year: 1
Florida State University	Dr. Mark Horner	13	0	This year: 0 Next year: 3
Jacksonville University	Dr. Ray Oldakowski	2	3	This year: 0 Next year: 1
Stetson University	Dr. Benjamin Tanner	1	0	This year: 0 Next year: 0
University of Florida	Dr. Jane Southworth	24	1	This year: 1 Next year: 0
University of North Florida	Dr. Russell Triplett	2	3	This year: 2 (adjuncts) Next year: 0

## C. Trends in Student Enrollment and Majors

Table 3 gives an overview of trends in student enrollment in geography classes, the number of geography majors, and number of courses offered. The table also lists some of the main areas of employment for geography graduates. The data has been divided into undergraduate (U) and graduate (G) level where applicable.

Numbers are overall stable or growing. Florida Atlantic University reports some decline in graduate student enrollment and explain it with increased cost of living and that students choose more affordable locations, in combination with cut graduate student funding due to the pandemic. Florida State University finds that the pandemic has impacted the number of students enrolled in their classes.

**Table 3. Trends in student enrollment**

Measure	Level (U/G)	Florida Atlantic University	Florida State University	Jacksonville University	Stetson University	University of Florida	University of North Florida
Student enrollment in geography classes	U	Growing	Decline	Stable	Stable	Growing	Growing
	G	Declining	Decline	-	-	Growing	-
Geography Majors	U	Stable	Stable	Growing*	-	Growing	-
	G	Declining	Stable	-	-	Growing	-
Course offerings	U	Stable	Growing	Stable	Stable	Growing	Stable
	G	Stable	Stable	-	-	Growing	Stable
Jobs for Geography Graduates	U	Federal, state, and local government agencies.	Public/private sector, academia	GIS jobs	-	Environmental jobs (public/private sector), grad school	GIS jobs
	G	Environmental consulting				Academia, NGOs, government	
*Department and major merged with sustainability and added environmental planning. Number of majors has doubled.							

## D. State of Geography

Based on the survey that is the foundations for this report, the State of Geography in Florida is generally positive. Many departments report growing student enrollments, and interdisciplinary research and teaching initiatives both within the department and across their campuses.

Departments that have seen decreased enrollment and budget cuts due to the pandemic, anticipates growing numbers over the next few years.

## E. State of SEDAAG

The universities in Florida only provided limited feedback on the state of SEDAAG. The main message is that most of the departments are not as involved as they'd like to be, which they explain by the pandemic complicating conference attendance, being a department with very diverse research interests among the faculty, among who only a few identify as geographers, and/or funding limiting conference attendance.



## Kentucky SEDAAG Survey Summary: 2022-2023 Academic Year

Surveys solicited by Dr. William (Bill) Graves, Associate Professor at University North Carolina, Charlotte

Summary prepared by Dr. Michele Abee, Assistant Professor at Bellarmine University

### A. Institutional Information

Approximately 9 universities and community colleges in Kentucky offer courses and/or degrees in geography or related fields. Five of these universities responded to the 2022 SEDAAG Survey. The contacts and degree information for these five departments are summarized in the table below:

**Table 1. Universities Responding to the 2020-2021 SEDAAG Survey**

Institution	Department and Survey Contact	Geography Degrees Offered
Bellarmino University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Department of Environmental Studies, and Department of Sociology and Anthropology</li><li>Dr. Michele Abee</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>None</li><li>Courses Offered:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Introduction to Human Geography</li><li>Special Topics in Geography</li><li>Geographic Information Systems</li></ul></li></ul>
Eastern Kentucky University (EKU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Department of Physics, Geosciences &amp; Astronomy</li><li>Dr. Alice L. Jones (Interim Chair)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Certificate in GIS</li></ul>
Northern Kentucky University (NKU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Department of History</li><li>Dr. John Metz, Emeritus</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>B.A. in Geography</li><li>Minor in Geography</li></ul>
University of Kentucky (UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Department of Geography</li><li>Dr. Matthew Wilson</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>B.S. in Geography</li><li>B.A. in Geography</li><li>Minor in Geography</li><li>Minor in Mapping and GIS</li><li>Minor in Urban Studies</li><li>M.A. in Geography</li><li>Ph.D. in Geography</li></ul>

Western Kentucky University (WKU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Earth, Environmental, and Atmospheric Sciences</li> <li>• Dr. Leslie North</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B.S. in Environmental, Sustainability, and Geographic Studies</li> <li>• Certificate in Geographic Information Systems</li> <li>• Master of Science in Geosciences</li> </ul>
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## B. Trends in Student Enrollment in Geography Courses

### Undergraduate:

At Bellarmine, undergraduate general education geography courses are *stable*.

At Eastern Kentucky University, General Education courses (World Regional, Physical geography, Environmental geography are *growing--primarily in online offerings*.

At Northern Kentucky University, courses are *declining*.

At the University of Kentucky, enrollments in Geography are currently trending *upward*.

At Western Kentucky University, courses are *stable*.

### Graduate:

At the University of Kentucky, student enrollment is *slightly upward*.

At Western Kentucky University, student enrollment is *stable*.

## C. Trends in Geography Majors

Eastern Kentucky University no longer offers any geography degrees. The 18-hour GIS certificate is *stable*, and upper division geotechniques courses required for the certificate are *growing somewhat*.

Northern Kentucky University no longer offers any geography degrees. They are currently teaching out remaining students that will earn the Bachelor of Arts.

At the University of Kentucky, despite a dip in enrollment during Covid, the Undergraduate enrollment numbers have remained *consistent*.

- **Graduate Trends at UK:** Graduate enrollment has been *consistent* even through the Covid years.

Western Kentucky University has *growing* numbers in the ESGS BS degree, but most students are concentrated on the environmental side of the program. Currently, there are less than five (out of 81 majors) who are in the major purely interested in human/cultural geography.

- **Graduate Trends at WKU:** Graduate enrollments are *increasing* back to pre-covid numbers. Of 18 students, 1 is concentrated on the human/cultural geography side of the masters. All others are geology or environmental.

## D. Trends in Course Offerings

At Bellarmine, undergraduate general education geography courses are *stable*, and GIS is *slightly growing*. Introduction to Human Geography enrolls 15 – 20 students per semester. GIS is offered ever Fall and ranges from 10 – 15 students per fall semester.

At Eastern Kentucky University, general education – average is 4 sections of World Regional per semester with enrollments +- 30 students; 2 sections Environmental geography @ 30 each; 8 – 10 sections Physical geography 24 each. GIS/ Geotechniques: 3 sections per semester @ 24 each, and 2 upper division 8 - 12 each.

At Northern Kentucky University, 6 classes are taught per semester.

At the University of Kentucky, numbers have remained steady in upper division geography course offerings. UK is expanding their capacities in lower division geography course offerings (to include General Education).

At Western Kentucky University, they are offering the same number of courses. The general education human geography courses are being filled with social studies and education majors since the course is required for them.

## E. Jobs for Geography Graduates

At Eastern Kentucky University, graduates find jobs at state agencies (e.g., wildlife management, water quality, and waste management) and local city/county GIS offices.

At the University of Kentucky, graduates find jobs in environmental management, urban planning, GIS and RS specialty firms, as well as nonprofits. UK has also had a few entrepreneurs.

At Western Kentucky University, graduates are getting employed in environmental and GISC roles across all sectors from government to private sector.

## F. Personnel

**Table 2. Personnel**

University	Department Head	Full-Time Geography Faculty	Part-Time Geography Faculty	New Geography Faculty
Bellarmino University	N/A	2	0	0 new faculty
Eastern Kentucky University	Dr. Alice Jones	3	8	Part time adjuncts for online gen-ed courses ONLY: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christopher Hair (physical geo &amp; GLY)</li> <li>• Benjamin Hooks (primarily GLY)</li> <li>• Zachary Scott (physical geo &amp; GLY)</li> <li>• Bridget Kelly (primarily GLY)</li> </ul>
Northern Kentucky University	Dr. Carol Medlicott (contact)	1	1	0 new faculty
University of Kentucky	Dr. Matt Wilson	20	4	Dr. Clare Beer, UCLA graduate, Visiting Assistant Professor

Western Kentucky University	Dr. Leslie North	7	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently hiring a new faculty member in Environmental Science and GIS</li> </ul>
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## G. State of Geography

The State of Geography in Kentucky is mixed. There is some steadiness blended with trepidation. Most of the universities that contributed to this survey have experienced steady or slightly increasing enrollments in courses and/or programs. This trend reflects budget cuts, retirements, and the need for universities to be creative and adaptive to the changing face of the higher education landscape. This creativity has been critical to geography's survival in the state of Kentucky. Primarily, programs are embracing career-specific and career readiness designed programs. For example, GIS programs and course enrollments are steady or thriving at most institutions. This also means institutions have combined or expanded interdisciplinary offerings (e.g., geology, environmental studies and sciences, sustainability, and atmospheric sciences) and have added geography courses to general education curriculums. There are growing concerns. A few universities reported they have been unable to keep up with national trends in enrollments, and although they are currently experiencing steady enrollments, with cuts to low enrolled courses and shifts to online courses, these programs do not foresee a return to thriving numbers in geography. There is a declining emphasis in human and cultural geography specializations. In addition, Northern Kentucky University reported they canceled their major due to retirements and budget cuts.

### Each department's complete response is quoted below:

**Bellarmino University:** Since there no geography degrees offered at Bellarmine courses are offered through the Department of Environmental Studies and Department of Anthropology and Sociology. These courses are steadily enrolled as they are part of the general education curriculum and GIS is required for all majors.

**Eastern Kentucky University:** "Declines in enrollments and stagnant enrollments have led to program cuts at ECU. The GIS Certificate program is healthy with 25 students --particularly among wildlife management and homeland security majors because students see it as a concrete set of job skills. We've had 2 retirements no replacement lines (and mine in June 2023 will make 3). Our geology program is growing slowly, up from 9 in 2018 to nearly 30 in 2022. Faculty salaries have not kept up with national averages, and administration is increasingly scrutinizing courses with low enrollments and emphasizing online courses. I do not see geography returning to a thriving state at ECU in the next decade."

**Northern Kentucky University:** No longer offering a Geography degree. Professor John Metz retired at the end of 2021, and this left one full time Geographer, Carol Medlicott. This made it impossible to have a major and it was terminated. Metz added, it was near impossible to maintain the major with two full time faculty. Carol Medlicott, the remaining Geographer, teaches 4 classes per semester, and there is also an adjunct teaching one or two intro classes each semester

**University of Kentucky:** “Geography at the University of Kentucky appears well-positioned to support the growth of the undergraduate body at the university. We have also expanded our graduate offerings, including an online MS in Digital Mapping and an online MA in Applied Environmental & Sustainability Studies.”

**Western Kentucky University:** “The human/cultural geography programs are rapidly declining in our state and institution. We have incorporated these courses in the general education program of the university, which has helped us maintain enrollment numbers. Without that, we would also be seeing declines. We aren’t experience turf wars because there isn’t anything to ‘fight over’. Technology, particularly GISC is getting more and more expensive and difficult for us to keep up with from a budget perspective.”

## **H. State of SEDAAG**

**Each department’s complete response is quoted below:**

**Bellarmino University:** Hopes to increase participation through the presentation of undergraduate research.

**Eastern Kentucky University:** “I (Dr. Alice Jones) personally have not been involved in SEDAAG in almost two decades, and faculty for the most part are choosing to spend our very limited PD funds to attend conferences aligned with their research areas rather than AAG or SEDAAG.”

**University of Kentucky:** Hopes to increase their participation at SEDAAG.

\*NKU and WKU did not provide answers to this section

**2022 Mississippi State Report, the Southeastern Division of the American Association of Geographers**

Brian Williams, Department of Geosciences, Mississippi State University

**A. Institutional Offerings**

Of the 8 public colleges and universities in Mississippi, only Mississippi State University and University of Southern Mississippi offer degrees in Geography. Alcorn State University, Delta State University, Jackson State University, Mississippi University for Women, and Mississippi Valley State University do not offer Geography degrees, though MUW offers a Minor in Geography, initiated in 2020. Most schools offer only a few courses in Geography while some offer adjacent courses and degrees, in particular Geographic Information Systems and Technology, albeit outside of the disciplinary context of geography. Delta State University has a separate G.I.T. Center that offers a B.S. in Applied Science and Geospatial Analysis and Intelligence. None of the private colleges in the State of Mississippi offer degrees or concentrations in Geography.

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Home Department/Contact</b>	<b>Geography Degrees Offered</b>	<b>Number of Faculty</b>	<b>New Geography Faculty</b>
Mississippi State University (MSU)	Geosciences/John Rodgers (Chair)	B.S. Geosciences (Concentrations in Professional Geology, Geography, Environmental Geoscience, Broadcast Meteorology, Professional Meteorology, Geographical Information Systems), Geospatial & Remote Sensing Minor  M.S. Meteorology, Geography, Geology, Geospatial Sciences, and Environmental Geosciences PhD in Earth & Atmospheric Sciences.	10  28 Geosciences faculty, of whom 10 have full or partial appointments in Geography, GIS, or Remote Sensing	3  Fikriyah Winata: specializes in Health Geography and GIS  Christy Hyman: specializes in GIS and Human Geography; Dual appointment with African American Studies  William Hui Wang; specialty in GIS and geospatial analysis
University of Southern Mississippi (USM)	School of Biological, Environmental, and Earth Sciences/Jake Schaefer (Director of School); George Raber (Geography Program Director)	B.S./M.S. Geography B.S. Geo. Info. Technology	8 (5 Hattiesburg campus) (3 Gulf Park campus)	1 Kayla Stan: specializes in GIS.  Upcoming physical geography hire.
University of Mississippi (UM)	Sociology and Anthropology/Catarina Passidomo (Associate Professor); Public Policy and Leadership/David Rutherford (Associate Professor and Executive Director of the Mississippi Geographic Alliance; Department of Teacher Education/Ellen J. Foster	No geography degree	3  Standalone faculty in other disciplines, none with an appointment in Geography	

	(Professor)			
Delta State University (DSU)	Social Science /Joseph Lane (Assistant Professor of Geography and Sustainable Development; Center for Geospatial Information Technologies/Talbot Brooks (Director)	No geography degree Separate Geospatial Information Technology Center with <u>B.S. in Geospatial Analysis and Intelligence</u>	1	
Mississippi University for Women (MUW)	History, Political Science, and Geography/Ann M. Fletchall Frazer (Visiting Assistant Professor)	No geography degree <u>Minor in Human Geography</u>	1	
Alcorn State University (ASU)	Advanced Technologies, Jermiah Billa (Interim Chair)	No degree ( <u>B.S. in Applied Science with GIS concentration</u> )		
Jackson State University (JSU)	History and Philosophy/Lomarsh Roopnarine (Chair); John Proctor (Lecturer)	No degree  Numerous courses on the books, but only Introduction to Cultural Geography (GEOG 105) and World Regional Geography (GEOG 209) are currently offered. Both are regularly taught by John Proctor.	1	
Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU)	Department of Social Sciences/Richard J. Mushi (Chair)	No degree or concentration.  Fundamentals of Geography (Social Science 101) satisfies an elective for numerous degrees. Political Geography (PS 430) is also offered.		

## B. Enrollment Trends

As a whole, enrollment trends in the state of Mississippi appear *stable*, but *varied*. At Southern Miss, a declining trend over the past five years is levelling off. Graduate enrollment, which had contracted slightly over the past few years due to faculty members leaving who were not replaced, has most recently experienced a slight uptick. Undergraduate enrollment in GEC courses has remained steady, although upper-level course offerings have experienced a decline. At MSU, student enrollments in GEC courses have experienced a slight decline over the past year, while enrollment in upper-level courses have remained stable. The addition of two new faculty members (Dr. Fikriyah Winata and Dr. Christy Hyman) provides an opportunity to increase the prominence of Geography in the University and boost enrollment in both lower- and upper-division courses.

Most schools (universities and the numerous community and junior colleges) only offer a few introductory courses in geography and enrollments in those seem stable and consistent as a whole. At

the University of Mississippi, geography courses are scattered across campus between Sociology and Anthropology, Public Policy and Leadership, and Geology (GIS). Mississippi University for Women (MUW) launched a Geography minor in 2020, presenting an opportunity for growth in the standing of the discipline in the state of Mississippi. At Jackson State University, there has been an increase in enrollment in Geography courses, which are housed in the Department of History and Philosophy. JSU instructor John Proctor reports an enthusiasm for Geography among students at JSU. Since there are several courses on the books that are currently not offered, JSU might be well-positioned to contribute to the growth of the discipline in the State of Mississippi.

### **C. Major Trends**

Only two schools in the State of Mississippi offer a Graduate Degree. USM offers a B.S. and M.S. in Geography, having discontinued its PhD program. MSU offers a B.S. in Geosciences with possible concentrations in Geography or GIS, along with Professional Meteorology, Broadcast Meteorology, Geology, and Environmental Geoscience. At the graduate level, MSU offers M.S. degrees in Meteorology, Geology, Geospatial Sciences, Environmental Geosciences, and Geography, as well as a PhD program in Earth and Atmospheric Science. The Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Ph.D. functions as a general degree, and including students specializing in Geography, Geology, GIS, and Meteorology.

In recent years, the numbers of geography majors in Mississippi has declined slightly at both USM and MSU, and at both undergraduate and graduate levels. The departure of faculty members at both schools has contributed to declining enrollment numbers. At Mississippi State, the addition of new professors offers the promise to revitalize new course offerings and strengthen the Geography program. The retention of existing faculty will be crucial to this process.

### **D. Course offerings**

Course offerings appear to be stable across most institutions. At USM, due to the departure of faculty and a reorganization of the program into the School of Biological, Environmental and Earth Sciences (BEES), no new courses have been offered, and adjuncts are filling in instructional gaps. The addition of one new faculty member and the expectation of another should help fill these gaps. At Mississippi State, two human geographers have departed over the past five years, and four have joined the department. This has meant a churn of new courses in development offered as Special Topics courses, but has limited the full institution of new courses in recent years. More courses, and a systematic reconsideration of the offerings, are in progress. MUW has gradually increased course offerings, and intends to continue to expand them with the new minor in Geography. At Delta State and Alcorn State, Geospatial techniques concentrations are not connected to other geography offerings. At Mississippi Valley State, the Fundamentals of Geography (SS 101) is an elective or required course for many degrees. Jackson State appears to have numerous Geography courses on the books (comparable with coursework for a Geography major), but only two courses are offered currently.

### **E. Jobs for geography graduates**

Most graduates reportedly find jobs in both private and public sector positions. This includes municipal, state, & federal government (planning, natural resource management, transportation); private sector (GIS, environmental science, real estate); and in higher education (as graduate students and faculty members). Many find work in GIS-related positions, while others work for state and local



government agencies and municipalities. In general, students tend to find more jobs in geospatial-related positions.

## **G. Faculty Searches**

Mississippi State University will be seeking an Tenure Track Professor of GIS & Human Geography, Pending Approval. There are no other faculty searches reported.

## **H. State of Geography**

The State of Geography in Mississippi is varied, but respondents reported an overall optimism about the future for Geography in the state, and the importance of a robust geographical education. The program at MSU, which is part of the Department of Geosciences, is healthy overall, but has struggled with faculty departures and a limited number of faculty focused on Geography. Recent hires at MSU offer the opportunity to build a stronger and more coherent program in coming years. The program at USM has been able to maintain itself amidst integration in the new School of Biological, Environmental and Earth Sciences, but has seen a sustained decline in faculty members, which have impacted course offerings and upper-level enrollment. A concern at USM is the need for support to fill vacated positions and maintain a core of faculty in Geography. This has, they report, been “particularly harmful to the Human/Cultural and GIS/RS branches of our program and is certainly a factor in our recent declines in student enrollment and majors”. Additionally, the Geography faculty on the Gulf Park Campus in Long Beach, MS are now affiliated with another school through a recent reorganization, reducing their affiliation with the Geography and Geology Program in Hattiesburg.

Other colleges and universities in the state maintain lack geography concentrations, but offer geography courses. An increase in institutional support and popularity of geospatial technologies and techniques is apparent, but at two institutions (Alcorn State and Delta State) there does not appear to be a well-developed connection between these and comprehensive geographical training. A decline in high school graduates and undergraduate enrollment in the future remains a major concern. On the other hand, the new offering of a Geography minor at MUW is a promising development. An expanded geography focus at one of the HBCUs (Jackson State, Alcorn State, or Mississippi Valley State) would be a promising development that would significantly boost the standing of geography in the state, and one that could merit support. At Jackson State, interest in Geography has increased because of students’ concern for sustainability, water quality, and interdisciplinary work. Stronger connections between geographers across the state can provide an important catalyst for growth and collaboration in a discipline that appears fragmented at the state level.

## **I. State of SEDAAG**

Respondents at MSU and USM indicated that they appreciate the role of SEDAAG as a regional division, and remain committed and involved, but beyond these programs, interaction with the organization is limited in the State of Mississippi. One way that SEDAAG could help promote the discipline in the State of Mississippi is by encouraging and supporting the growth of Geography at Mississippi’s historically black colleges and universities. As John Proctor, the respondent from Jackson State University, put it, by reaching out to Mississippi’s HBCUs, SEDAAG has the opportunity to both promote geography and increase diversity within the field.

## North Carolina SEDAAG Survey Summary: 2021-2022 Academic Year

Surveys solicited and summary prepared by Dr. Sarah Praskievicz, Associate Professor at  
University of North Carolina Greensboro

### A. Institutional Information

Approximately 15 universities in North Carolina offer courses and/or degrees in geography or related fields. Seven of these universities responded to the 2022 SEDAAG Survey. The contacts and degree information for these six departments are summarized in the table below:

**Table 1. Universities Responding to the 2021-2022 SEDAAG Survey**

Institution	Department and Survey Contact	Geography Degrees Offered
East Carolina University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Geography, Planning, and Environment</li> <li>Dr. Jeff Popke</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>B.S. in Geography</li> <li>B.S. in Applied Atmospheric Science</li> <li>B.S. in Geographic Information Science and Technology</li> <li>B.S. in Community and Regional Planning</li> <li>B.S. in Multidisciplinary Studies – Environmental Studies Concentration</li> <li>Minor in Geography</li> <li>Minor in Atmospheric Science</li> <li>Minor in Community and Regional Planning</li> <li>Certificate in Geographic Information Science and Technology</li> <li>M.S. in Geography</li> <li>M.S. in Planning and Development</li> <li>Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Science and Technology</li> <li>Graduate Certificate in Development and Environmental Planning</li> </ul>
North Carolina State University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Center for Geospatial Analytics</li> <li>Dr. Ross Meentemeyer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ph.D. in Geospatial Analytics</li> <li>Master's in Geospatial Information Science and Technology</li> <li>Graduate Certificate in GIS</li> </ul>
UNC Charlotte	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Geography and Earth Sciences</li> <li>Dr. Deborah Thomas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>B.A. in Geography</li> <li>B.S. in Geography</li> <li>B.S. in Earth and Environmental Sciences</li> <li>B.A. in Environmental Studies</li> <li>B.S. in Geology</li> <li>B.S. in Meteorology</li> <li>Minor in Geography</li> <li>Minor in Earth Sciences</li> <li>Minor in Environmental Sciences</li> <li>Minor in Geology</li> <li>Minor in Urban Studies</li> <li>M.A. in Geography</li> <li>M.S. in Earth Sciences</li> <li>Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Science and Technology</li> <li>Ph.D. in Geography</li> <li>Ph.D. in Infrastructure and Environmental Systems</li> <li>Ph.D. in Public Policy</li> </ul>
UNC Greensboro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability</li> <li>Dr. Corey Johnson</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>B.A. in Geography</li> <li>B.S. in Geography</li> <li>B.A. in Environmental and Sustainability Studies</li> <li>M.A. in Applied Geography</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M.S. in Sustainability and Environment</li> <li>• Ph.D. in Geography</li> <li>• P.B.C. in Global and Regional Studies in Geography</li> <li>• P.B.C. in Sustainability</li> <li>• P.B.C. in Urban and Economic Development</li> </ul>
UNC Pembroke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Geology and Geography</li> <li>• Dr. Martin Farley</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B.S. in Geo-Environmental Studies (with a Geography track as an option)</li> <li>• Minor in Geography</li> <li>• Minor in Geology</li> <li>• Minor in Sustainability</li> <li>• Certificate in Geospatial Technologies</li> </ul>
UNC Wilmington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Earth and Ocean Sciences</li> <li>• Dr. Chad Lane</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B.A. in Geography and Geospatial Sciences</li> <li>• B.S. in Geology</li> <li>• B.A. in Geosciences</li> <li>• B.S. in Oceanography</li> <li>• Minor in Geospatial Technologies</li> <li>• M.S. in Geoscience</li> <li>• Graduate Certificate in GIS</li> </ul>
Western Carolina University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Geosciences and Natural Resource Management</li> <li>• Dr. Diane Styers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B.S. in Environmental Science</li> <li>• B.S. in Earth Science Education</li> <li>• B.S. in Geology</li> <li>• B.S. in Natural Resource Conservation and Management</li> </ul>

## B. Trends in Student Enrollment in Geography Courses

Enrollment in **undergraduate** geography courses is *stable* at East Carolina University, UNC Charlotte, and UNC Pembroke, and it is *increasing* at UNC Greensboro, UNC Wilmington, and Western Carolina University. Enrollment in **graduate** geography courses is *stable* at East Carolina University, North Carolina State University, UNC Charlotte, and UNC Greensboro, and *increasing* at UNC Wilmington.

## C. Trends in Geography Majors

The number of **undergraduate** geography majors is *declining* at East Carolina University, *stable* at UNC Charlotte and UNC Pembroke, and *increasing* at UNC Greensboro and UNC Wilmington. Western Carolina University has no geography major, but student enrollment in geography classes is *increasing*. The number of students in **graduate** geography programs is *declining* at East Carolina University, *stable* at North Carolina State University and UNC Greensboro, and *increasing* at UNC Wilmington. At UNC Charlotte, the number of students is *declining* for the M.A. and *stable* for the Ph.D.

## D. Trends in Course Offerings

East Carolina University is offering fewer physical geography courses because of lack of faculty to teach those courses. North Carolina State University is developing multiple new undergraduate courses to support a new minor in geospatial data science. Geography course offerings are stable at UNC Charlotte and UNC Pembroke. UNC Greensboro reports no real change in course offerings other than the addition of an M.S. in Sustainability and Environment and accompanying online courses at the graduate level. UNC Wilmington reports strong student interest in geospatial, climate science, and general education courses. Western Carolina

University reports strong student interest in geography courses among students in the Liberal Studies program (to support the cultural diversity perspective requirement) and students in the Geoscience and Natural Resource program (to support the geospatial technology and remote sensing requirements).

### E. Jobs for Geography Graduates

East Carolina University reports that undergraduate and graduate students are finding GIS-oriented jobs in both the public (state and federal government, planning agencies) and private (environmental consulting, surveying) sectors and that some M.S. graduates are entering Ph.D. programs. North Carolina State University reports that students are finding jobs in private industry, government, nonprofits, and academia. UNC Charlotte reports that students are finding jobs in environmental, planning, and GIS fields. UNC Greensboro reports that students are most commonly finding jobs in urban planning and GIS. UNC Pembroke reports that students are finding jobs teaching in local schools and in GIS. UNC Wilmington reports that students are finding jobs with mapping firms, environmental consulting firms, and local government.

### F. Personnel

**Table 2. Personnel**

University	Department Head	Full-Time Geography Faculty	Part-Time Geography Faculty	New Geography Faculty
East Carolina University	Dr. Jeff Popke	15	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Rachelle Berry, Assistant Professor</li> <li>• Dr. Steven Richter, Assistant Professor</li> <li>• Hiring a new Assistant Professor in Planning during 2022-2023</li> </ul>
North Carolina State University	Dr. Ross Meentemeyer	10	0	
UNC Charlotte	Dr. Heather Smith (interim chair as of 11/1/22)	33	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Just authorized to hire after a resignation</li> </ul>
UNC Greensboro	Dr. Corey Johnson	12	0	
UNC Pembroke	Dr. Martin Farley	7	0	
UNC Wilmington	Dr. Chad Lane	8	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Yaulei You, Assistant Professor</li> </ul>
Western Carolina University	Dr. Diane Styers	1	1	

## G. State of Geography

UNC Charlotte and UNC Wilmington report that the overall state of geography is strong at their institutions. North Carolina State University has no geography department but does have strong interdisciplinary interest in geospatial data science. Western Carolina University reports that it has a small geography program that is stable and fills a niche in the general education curriculum. UNC Greensboro reports that mismanagement of the university in recent years has resulted in declining enrollment and concomitant budget reductions, and retirements are now associated with a permanent loss of FTE. East Carolina University and UNC Pembroke report significant challenges, including potential departmental mergers or elimination of degree programs because of declining numbers of majors. Other concerns mentioned by one or more departments include the inadequacy of geography's traditional role as a "discovery major", majors being siphoned off to related degree programs, demographic changes resulting in lower overall enrollment, and a new funding model for the UNC system that will disadvantage graduate programs. **Each department's complete response is quoted below:**

**East Carolina University:** "Our Department does not fare particularly well on productivity metrics, but I think we are viewed positively for our multidisciplinary character and varied contributions to STEM (Atmospheric Science), applied and community-engaged activity (Planning), and enhancing job readiness (GEOG and GIST). We have been given positions in recent years and have 5 Assistant Professors, more than most departments in our College. Geography is at the moment the weakest of our degree programs. The new Environmental Studies degree is likely to siphon off more students and majors, though the inaugural program director is a geographer and so our department is getting credit for being a team player for now. As indicated above, we can no longer rely on geography being a 'discovery major', and we will need new recruiting strategies to reverse our declines. We feel that there are opportunities to reach new student markets with more online GIS (microcredentials, courses, certificates, perhaps a degree down the road), but this will require convincing our College and Provost that we are worthy of new investments. One notable recent phenomenon: our Dean has initiated a review of Geological Science on our campus and there is some speculation that a departmental merger could be on the table for discussion, perhaps along with a new degree program in environmental science or geoscience. Stay tuned on that."

**North Carolina State University:** "Geography as a discipline is non-existent at NC State, and there is no geography department. However, there is a strong interdisciplinary commitment to developing our capacity in GIS and geospatial data science."

**UNC Charlotte:** "The state of geography on our campus is relatively strong. We have situated ourselves well in the new General Education revision, which is important for a discovery major like geography. It will be interesting over the next decade as other disciplines claim GIS and other methods (aka spatial epidemiology, which is now common in public health). Demographic shifts will mean declining enrollments overall. Geography will need to be well situated."

**UNC Greensboro:** "UNC Greensboro has suffered horrendous mismanagement in recent years, which has resulted in declining enrollment and concomitant budget reductions. Geography (and

Environment & Sustainability) has fared relatively well amid a grim situation, but it has meant that retirements come with a permanent loss of FTE.”

**UNC Pembroke:** “I understand that Geography programs have been cut back at institutions round the country. Our department seems to be hanging on, mainly because of the numbers we generate for general education. Our degree program has the ‘Sword of Damocles’ hanging over it. We are expected to produce greater numbers of Geo-Env majors. We only have a handful of graduates each year, and administration is warning us that we need to increase them, or face elimination of the degree. Most of our reasonable technology requests are funded.”

**UNC Wilmington:** “Overall geography is healthy at UNCW. We are always looking to increase the number of majors but our student hour production is good. Our biggest concern is a new funding model in NC which will decrease funding for graduate programs. Consequently, we may see a future decrease in our grad numbers.”

**Western Carolina University:** “There has been no change in Geography at Western since the last survey. Geography at Western is small in scale, but does offer a variety of courses on a rotating basis that provide students with important perspectives in cultural diversity. All of these courses rely on one instructor with the responsibility of several preps each semester. So, the students don't necessarily get a variety of view points and perspectives offered by a variety of instructors. The instructor position is an annual contract that typically has seen high turnover, but that now has been constant for the past three years. This consistency has added four minors to the previous number of zero. The negative aspect is that two of the minors will graduate only having had courses with one instructor. The positive aspect is that the building relationships with students is easier, and expectations across the courses are consistent.”

## **H. State of SEDAAG**

East Carolina University reports less involvement with SEDAAG in recent years because of declining enrollments of geography students and that this decline was accelerated by the pandemic. UNC Charlotte also notes that the pandemic influenced participation in SEDAAG, as well as the relative distance and accessibility of the meeting location. UNC Greensboro reports that SEDAAG seems to be a healthy regional organization. UNC Pembroke reports limited involvement in SEDAAG. UNC Wilmington reports that SEDAAG is a strong region and notes that the *Southeastern Geographer's* acquisition of an impact factor is a positive development.

**Each department's complete response is quoted below:**

**East Carolina University:** “I'm afraid I do not have much to offer here. Our department used to attend the SEDAAG meeting with regularity, often bringing a van with students. But this tradition had been declining along with our enrollments even before the pandemic. In the post-pandemic context, I think there are questions about the changing function of academic conferences and organizations. Our faculty and department culture have not yet recovered from COVID, and I fear that the sense of community that drove excitement about SEDAAG, Geo Bowl, etc. may not come back. That said, I do feel that the AAG Divisions play an important role in keeping Geography healthy, and SEDAAG has always been among the most vibrant.”

**UNC Charlotte:** “This is likely not entirely a fair question because of covid. The last in-person conference was too far and challenging to get to. It’s exciting it’s in Atlanta this year, so hopefully will be well attended. The conference has a lot of potential for students and showcasing applied work. But, it’s also challenging because it’s not long after AGX.”

**UNC Greensboro:** “I don't have much of a perspective on SEDAAG's activities, other than having been home to the co-editors of the Southeastern Geographer and having attended the annual meeting last year. It seems like a healthy regional organization from my limited perspective.”

**UNC Pembroke:** “I am the only one left in our department who attends SEDAAG conferences. I am very happy to see that SEDAAG is once again able to host in-person meetings. I very much enjoyed working with the World Geography Bowl committee, and attending the events. I always open a new edition of the journal with some anticipation, but I am always disappointed in the topics covered in the journal. Many of them are unbearable to read. Conversely, there are always interesting topics in each of the paper sessions. The enthusiastic poster and paper presentations by graduate students are also enjoyable. My paper presentations are usually very well received, although audiences are sometimes very small. One weakness of the journal, and the conferences, is the lack of free speech, and the explicit biases of the current members. I get the feeling that I do not belong. Occasionally, delusional statements are part of the journal articles.”

**UNC Wilmington:** “SEDAAG serves the region well, an important outlet for student presentations. Glad to see journal get impact factor.”

**South Carolina SEDAAG Survey Summary: 2021-2022 Academic Year**  
 Surveys solicited and Summary prepared by Dr. Dean Hardy, Assistant Professor at the  
 University of South Carolina

**A. Institutional Information**

There are at least 7 post-secondary institutions in South Carolina that offer courses and/or degrees in geography. Only four of these institutions responded to the 2022 SEDAAG Survey. The contacts and degree information for all contacted institutions is summarized in Table 1.

**Table 1. Universities Contacted for the 2021-2022 SEDAAG Survey** (degrees hyperlinked)

Institution	Department and Survey Contact	Geography Degrees Offered	Responded
University of South Carolina, Columbia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Geography</li> <li>Dr. Jerry Mitchell</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">B.S. in Geography</a></li> <li>B.A. in Geography</li> <li>Minor in Geography</li> <li>Minor in Climate and Society</li> <li>Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT) Certificate</li> <li>M.S. in Geography</li> <li>M.A. in Geography</li> <li><a href="#">Ph.D. in Geography</a></li> </ul>	Y
Francis Marion University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Political Science and Geography</li> <li>Dr. Scott S. Brown</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Minor in Geography</a></li> </ul>	Y
College of Charleston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Political Science</li> <li>Dr. Mark Long</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Minor in Geography</a></li> </ul>	Y
Midlands Technical College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School of Social and Behavioral Sciences</li> <li>Dr. Brian Grabbatin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Associates in Arts Degree with a concentration in Geography</li> </ul>	Y
Coastal Carolina University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Anthropology and Geography</li> <li>Dr. Susan Bergeron</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">B.A. in Anthropology and Geography with a concentration in Geography</a></li> <li><a href="#">Minor in GIS</a></li> <li><a href="#">Minor in Human-Environment Geography</a></li> <li><a href="#">Geospatial Technologies Certificate</a></li> </ul>	N
Winthrop University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Interdisciplinary Studies (disbanded Fall 2022)</li> <li>Mr. Bryan McFadden</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>B.A. Environmental Studies</li> <li>B.S. Environmental Sciences</li> <li><a href="#">Minor in Geography</a></li> </ul>	N
University of South Carolina, Upstate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>History, Political Science, Philosophy and American Studies</li> <li>Dr. Trevor Rubenzor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No degree in Geography</li> </ul>	N



## B. Geography Courses / Student Trends

### 1. Trends in Student Enrollment in Geography Courses

All four respondents stated that enrollment in **undergraduate** geography courses is *stable* at their institutions (USC Columbia, Francis Marion, College of Charleston, and Midlands Tech). The fate of geography courses at Winthrop is undetermined given no response and the disbandment of their Department of Interdisciplinary Studies where the minor in geography is held. Enrollment in **graduate** geography courses is *increasing* at the College of Charleston due to new GIS courses, whereas it is decreasing at USC Columbia due to limited funding through the university and relatively low grant funding.

### 2. Trends in Geography Majors

The number of **undergraduate** geography majors is *stable* at USC Columbia at around 60 with increased recruitment and retention efforts underway. It is also reported to be *stable* at Francis Marion, presumably for minors, and *increasing* for AA geography concentration students at Midlands Tech up to 12 from 3 just two years ago when the concentration began. The number of students in **graduate** geography programs is *decreasing* at USC Columbia, the only SC institution with a graduate program in geography, due to funding limitations (see B above).

### 3. Trends in Course Offerings

USC Columbia's undergraduate courses offerings are *stable* but reports offering fewer regional courses with more political ecology and GIScience courses. At College of Charleston, a new GIS faculty member has increased interest and presumably course offerings. Midlands Tech has added higher level regional courses. Francis Marion reports highest enrollment in general education courses (Cultural and World Regional Geography) and smaller enrollments in upper level courses.

### 4. Jobs for Geography Graduates

USC Columbia reports graduates go into city and state government planning, GIScience positions (ESRI, Maxar), private sector consulting, and academia. Francis Marion reports some go into urban planning positions while Midlands Tech reports that many students go on to four-year colleges entering into degree programs such as geography, environmental studies, and international studies. Others go to work for government agencies such as USGS, DNR, and county governments.

## C. Personnel

USC Columbia reports 10 fulltime faculty with two new tenure track positions to begin Fall 2023. Francis Marion reports 2 fulltime and 1 parttime faculty. Midlands Tech reports 1 fulltime faculty. College of Charleston reports 3 fulltime faculty. Winthrop University shows 3 adjunct

geography faculty on their website. Coastal Carolina University shows 9 geography-affiliated faculty appointed as visiting, lecturer, assistant or associate professor.

#### **D. State of Geography**

The State of Geography in South Carolina is steady. Strong interest in GIS and GIScience has been expressed by students and faculty. Overall, there are few degree programs in the state, however, and only two institutions with full four-year degrees in geography (USC Columbia and Coastal Carolina). As reported last year, the SC Geographic Alliance worked on the state's overhaul of the social studies standards with a full year of World Regional Geography now included in Middle School at the 7<sup>th</sup> grade level. This will hopefully increase awareness and demand for geography courses and degrees as those students start to enter college in 2027. **Each department's complete response is quoted below:**

**College of Charleston:** "Students are interested in GIS."

**Francis Marion:** "Nothing really new or different."

**Midlands Tech:** "The biggest challenge I see is the difficulty in educating students, faculty, and staff about what makes geography distinct. Potential students often end up in other Physical Sciences or Social Sciences because the disciplines such as Biology, Geology, Sociology, Anthropology, Economics are more readily recognizable and career paths are better defined."

**USC Columbia:** "

- Institution: No substantive external threats (legislative, administrative) related to budget or curriculum, though these have been past problems.
- Strong partnerships exist among faculty and state agencies to produce actionable, applied work.
- Viewed favorably by university administration overall.
- Graduate program is suffering (numbers) as result of low university investment and faculty inattention (recruiting, grant acquisition)."

#### **E. State of SEDAAG**

There was very limited engagement with this question. Notable comments pertain to noteworthy improvements in the *Southeastern Geographer* journal over the past few years as well as a desire to host SEDAAG in Puerto Rico or southern Florida with the goal of being more inclusive and diverse as far as ethnic diversity goes within the region. It seems the pandemic has put a real halt on attendance at the annual conference. Also, it is rather difficult to find out information about the annual conference without being an AAG member. The website's listserv appears to be unused or difficult to join.

**Virginia: State of Geography Report 2022**  
**Submitted by Anamaria Bukvic, Assistant Professor, Virginia Tech**  
**SEDAAG Virginia State Representative**

**State Summary**

This year, six out of eight programs responded. Most of the geography programs in Virginia are doing well coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, with stable trends in undergraduate and graduate enrollments and course offerings. Based on the received responses, it can be concluded that:

- Large state universities tend to perform better due to their faculty base, capacity to innovate, and robust efforts to recruit new and retain current students.
- Most programs are trying to innovate and reinvent their curricula to attract new students and be more marketable.
- Other programs on campus are increasingly entering the space associated traditionally with geography.
- Graduates increasingly find employment in the intelligence community, followed by the public sector (local and federal government). The job prospects are excellent.
- Some programs plan new hires, either anew or as a replacement for retirement
- Institutional budget issues are a significant barrier to expanding the programs

Concerning SEDAAG, some participants noted that their faculty are unfamiliar with SEDAAG. Increasing the visibility of the SEDAAG program and communicating the benefits of participation would help with future engagement. Also, one participant noted that there is an opportunity for SEDAAG to reflect on the past few years and reinvent to address broader shifts in the geography field, similar to what many institutions are doing.

**PROGRAM SUMMARIES**

**Emory and Henry College** (Davis, Edward) experienced steady undergraduate enrollment in offered courses. Since fewer courses have been offered since 2018, enrollment and majors are declining. The program does not have graduate offerings. It has one full-time and two part-time faculty with no plans for a new hire due to budget issues. However, the program is doing well, innovating with limited resources. Two adjunct faculty and electives from cognate fields help provide a range of courses to support the program. There is interest in being more active in SEDAAG. Students get jobs in GIS, teaching, planning, and environmental agency.

**George Mason University** did not respond this year.

**James Madison University** (Zachary Bortolot). The undergraduate geography program experienced a slight increase in enrollments despite the limitation on the course enrollment due to the small faculty size. The number of majors is growing overall, with 174 majors, nearly double the number from 10 years ago. Similar is with minors. There is a new student growth of in the Geospatial Intelligence Certificate Program. The number of offered courses overall increased over time, especially in the area of human geography, followed by physical geography and human-physical interactions, and then geospatial technology courses. The largest employment sector for GMU geography students is geospatial intelligence (about a third of students), followed by environment, urban planning, municipal GIS departments, international development, etc. The

program has 10.5 full-time and 4 part-time faculty with one recent hire in environmental remote sensing. There are no new hire plans for this year.

State of Geography at James Madison University is relatively good with the number of majors and minors is increasing, and most students finding employment after graduation. However, other programs across campus are increasingly entering this space by offering courses traditionally associated with geography (e.g., GIS, climate change, meteorology, etc.). This affects the program's visibility and ability to offer courses to non-majors. The state of geography in Virginia is also relatively good with a good reputation and hiring potential, especially in the geospatial intelligence. Geography is a degree that is widely recognized by employers, and there has been a lot of growth in geography related jobs, especially in the field of geospatial intelligence. Unfortunately, GMU geography faculty are unfamiliar with SEDAAG and generally do not attend the event.

**The University of Mary Washington** (Jackie Gallagher). The program offers an undergraduate geography degree, a Certificate in Geographic Information Science, and MS in geospatial analysis. Enrollment among undergraduate students is stable despite the overall decline in the university student population. Graduate enrollment experienced a decline, likely due to COVID-19 uncertainties. Trends in majors and course offerings are stable. Most students work for the local government (e.g., planning, GIS, Utilities, environmental positions, and schools), followed by intelligence fields such as the federal government and private sector. Others will get a variety of jobs or go to graduate school. The program currently has ten full-time and three rotational adjunct faculty. One faculty member will retire in 2023 and will likely be replaced by a temporary hire that will transition into a tenure-track position.

The geography program at Mary Washington is well-respected by the administration and other offices (admissions, academic services, student services). It has a stable budget, good access to technology, and a reputation for being approachable and friendly. The efforts to recruit new students to both undergraduate and graduate programs are ongoing, namely by offering a new major in geospatial analysis, revising the curriculum, and improving the outreach on campus and externally, especially among high school students (residential college experience with course preview and enrichment activities). This program also provides an example that smaller liberal arts institutions can also thrive in geography space. The COVID-19 pandemic paused attendance, and there was little interest in the virtual experience. SEDAAG is also in the same place with geography programs and institutions – reassessing and reinventing post-pandemic.

**Radford University** (Charles Manyara). The Department of Geospatial Science (formerly named Geography) experienced an overall decline in the number of students but an increase in freshman enrollment. Trends in majors and geography courses are overall declining, likely reflecting a decrease in campus-wide student enrollment change in curriculum to something called R.E.A.L. (Scientific and quantitative reasoning, Humanistic or artistic expression, Cultural or behavioral analysis, and Applied learning). Many students get jobs as entry-level GIS analysts.

**At Virginia Tech** (Tom Crawford), the Department of Geography experienced a stable enrollment in all of its programs (BA in Geography, BS in Meteorology, MS in Geography, and PhD in Geospatial and Environmental Analysis). The MS Geography program has become more international, with nine of the 22 students from the global south. The program introduced new offerings in coastal geography, environmental security, qualitative methods, health geography, and spatial statistics, many for both undergrad and grad students. The geography department is one of the campus gen-ed leaders with 11 gen-ed courses. As for employment, many get jobs in various places, including meteorology in weather offices (NWS, NOAA, Air Force) and the military

(we have many ROTC students). The department has 19 full-time and 1 part-time faculty with one new hire in GIS specialization and two retirements in the last year. One new tenure-track hire for a combination of remote sensing and physical/environmental geography is planned for fall 2023.

VT Geography is healthy regarding majors, faculty, funding, and campus reputation. There are always turf issues, but we have good relationships with other disciplines. The enrollment has been capped for the last few years --primarily dictated by housing constraints and broader growth capacity. With the state-wide technology funds, the department was able to obtain new technology (e.g., weather station and drone) and update the GIS lab. SEDAAG coped well with the COVID-19 pandemic, but needs sustained faculty and student participation. It is a student-friendly venue that supports student involvement and allows them to present their research. However, it would be good to include more rigorous faculty research and balance participation between faculty and students. The journal's reputation could also be enhanced – even though JCR now indexes it in the ECSI, it would be good to move to a higher category like the SSCI index. Also, the type of articles could be diversified to include more rigorous methods and address critical topics. It is still an excellent venue for early career faculty and students to get their work published. However, it is good to think about its role and future.

**Old Dominion University** (Jonathan Leib). ODU's geography program offers an undergraduate degree and Graduate certificates in GIS. It is experiencing stable enrolment and a trend in majors and course enrollments. Online enrollment is increasing, but the overall numbers are about the same. - Stable. Gen-ed courses are popular, while upper-level courses have low enrollment at times. There is little interest in regional courses, and fewer faculty are available to teach them. GIS and related certificates are in high demand. ODU is adding certificates in Hazards and Emergency Management; Urban Planning, Policy and Studies; and Environmental Studies. We are included as a concentration in ODU's Data Science degree proposal. Even though the courses supporting these concentrations and certificates were offered before, the hope is that their redesign will increase enrollment. Students mostly find employment in GIS positions in the public sector. The program has one new lecturer hired and plans to have two new positions, one Assistant Professor with a physical geography focus and another lecturer (human geography focus).

State of Geography: Budget cuts have reduced opportunities for new hires and re-hires. Resources are needed to support the GIS lab and for continued program expansion and integration, but they are limited. Rebranding the Geography program as a STEM discipline may improve enrollments and is in process. It is critical for students in what we experience to be a discovery discipline to be able to market their skills to potential employers. Certificates and embedding our courses in other programs help us explain our value to students. Recruiting efforts have been increased by faculty in the past year. State of SEDAAG SEDAAG uses its resources well but needs to continue to promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility at its meetings, in its journal, and through award programs.

**The University of Richmond** did not respond this year.

## West Virginia SEDAAG Survey Summary: 2021-2022 Academic Year

Surveys solicited by Dr. William Graves, Associate Professor at UNC Charlotte  
Summary prepared by Dr. Thomas Saladyga, Associate Professor at Concord University

### A. Institutional Information

Five universities in West Virginia offer courses and/or degrees in geography or related fields. Four of these universities responded to the 2022 SEDAAG Survey. The contacts and degree information for these departments are summarized in the table below:

**Table 1. Universities Responding to the 2021-2022 SEDAAG Survey**

Institution	Department and Survey Contact	Geography Degrees Offered
Concord University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences</li><li>Dr. Thomas Saladyga</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>B.S. in Environmental Geosciences</li><li>Minor in Environmental Geosciences</li><li>Minor in Geospatial Information Science</li></ul>
Marshall University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Department of Geography</li><li>Dr. James Leonard</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>B.A. in Geography</li><li>B.S. in Geography</li><li>Online B.A./B.S. in Geography</li><li>Minor/Undergraduate Certificate in GIS</li><li>M.A. in Geography</li><li>M.S. in Geography</li><li>Online M.A. in Geography</li><li>Graduate Certificate in GIS (Basic and Advanced)</li></ul>
West Liberty University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Department of Humanities and Social Sciences</li><li>Mr. Aron Massey</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>B.S. in Geography and Planning</li><li>Minor in Geography and Planning</li><li>Minor in Appalachian Studies</li></ul>
West Virginia University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Department of Geology and Geography</li><li>Dr. Jamison Conley</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>B.S. in Geology</li><li>B.S. in Geography</li><li>B.A. in Environmental Geoscience</li><li>Minor in Geology</li><li>Minor in Geography</li><li>M.S. in Geology</li><li>M.A. in Geography</li><li>M.S. in GIS and Spatial Analysis (Online)</li><li>Ph.D. in Geology</li><li>Ph.D. in Geography</li><li>Graduate Certificate in GIS and Spatial Analysis</li></ul>

In addition to these four institutions with geography faculty, the Department of Land Resources at Glenville State University offers an online GIS certificate.

## B. Trends in Student Enrollment in Geography Courses

Enrollment in **undergraduate** geography courses is *stable* at Concord University, West Liberty University, and West Virginia University and *increasing* at Marshall University. Enrollment in **graduate** geography courses is *increasing* at Marshall University due to online offerings.

## C. Trends in Geography Majors

The number of **undergraduate** Geography majors is *increasing* at Marshall University (as a result of fully online degree offerings) and at West Virginia University. At West Liberty University, the number of Geography majors has *declined* post-COVID. The number of Environmental Geosciences majors at Concord University is *stable*. Graduate student numbers at Marshall University and West Virginia University are *stable*.

## D. Trends in Course Offerings

The number of undergraduate geography course offerings is stable at Concord University and West Liberty University. General education geography course offerings are stable at Marshall University, while major course offerings have grown to serve increasing number of majors. At West Virginia University, current course offerings in physical geography are reduced, but a round of job ads/new hires in 2023 should reverse this trend.

## E. Jobs for Geography Graduates

All departments reported that graduates are finding jobs in GIS and related fields. However, fewer students from Concord University are seeking these jobs since the dissolution of the traditional geography major in 2020. Graduates at each university also find jobs in community and economic development, local government, consulting firms, and non-profits, while others attend graduate school.

## F. Personnel

**Table 2. Personnel**

University	Department Head	Full-Time Geography Faculty	Part-Time Geography Faculty	New Geography Faculty
Concord University	Dr. Joseph Allen	Geography (1) Geology (2)	0	• NA
Marshall University	Dr. James Leonard	Geography (5)	1	• Plans to hire one new faculty (2023)
West Liberty University	Dr. Aaron Harper	Geography (2)	1	• NA
West Virginia University	Dr. Brent McCusker	Geography (10) Geology (9)	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One new hire for MGIS program</li> <li>• Plans to hire six new faculty (2023)</li> </ul>

## G. State of Geography

The State of Geography in West Virginia is varied. Marshall University has experienced growth over the last five years and the department continues to identify new avenues to expand course offerings. At West Liberty University, funding continues to be an issue, but the program is stable overall. Concord University no longer offers a geography degree, but geography remains present on campus and has received institutional support from the University. At West Virginia University, the Department of Geology and Geography is undergoing an “academic transformation” process. **Each department’s complete response is quoted below:**

**West Liberty University:** “Nothing new of note. Obviously we face many budgetary concerns that all institutions in the state are also dealing with. As a small major with limited resources, we actually feel as though we are providing a good program for our students, and that we are overall in a good place within the university (well placed in the general studies, a required minor for several large majors...). Our university still has restrictions on travel funding, which is making things challenging for research and for conference attendance and presentation. This is particularly challenging for non-tenured faculty (both in our major and across the university) trying to maintain an active research agenda with virtually no institutional support.”

**Marshall University:** “Our department is strong and has experienced growth over the last five years. We intend to seek avenues for additional growth. We've been granted permission to hire a new tenure-track faculty member partly due to demand for meteorology courses among non-majors and partly due to increased majors. We are trying to reach out to other disciplines such as Marketing/Business who could benefit from GIS tools. Delivering GIS/Remote Sensing software remotely for online majors remains a challenge.”

**Concord University:** “Following program reorganization in 2020, geography is represented by one faculty member in the Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences serving the major in Environmental Geosciences. Despite this diminished presence, the department recently renovated the GIS lab and courses offerings, field trips, and instrumentation in physical and human-environment geography have received institutional support. The geography faculty member is working to increase awareness and application of GIS in other disciplines on campus, including business and health sciences.”

**West Virginia University:** “The state of geography at WVU is very much in flux. We are undergoing an “academic transformation” process, and the Department of Geology and Geography will become a School of Sustainability and Earth Sciences (or a similar name--it has not yet been fully determined), and the existing BA and BS degrees offered within the department will be replaced with a BA in Sustainability Studies and a BS in Earth Science. The existing geography faculty will contribute to both programs. The MA and PhD degrees in Geography will remain with the name Geography. This involves a substantial overhaul of the degrees and courses that we offer. Adding to the sense of uncertainty, we know that the budget allocation model for WVU will be changing starting with the 2022-23 academic year, and it is unknown if this will ultimately increase or decrease the budget for the department/school.”



## **H. State of SEDAAG**

Marshall University and West Virginia University have had limited involvement with SEDAAG, whereas West Liberty University and, especially, Concord University faculty and students have had a much stronger relationship with the organization. **Each department's complete response is quoted below:**

**West Liberty University:** “Still happy to be in SEDAAG. The annual meeting, the quality of the presentations found there, and of the Southeastern Geographer, are a level above those of other regional divisions.”

**Marshall University:** No response.

**Concord University:** “SEDAAG is a great regional conference, especially for undergraduate and graduate students to network and present research. I will be bringing two students to the conference this fall and plan on doing so in the future. In the past, when there was a geography major, Concord faculty and students had a greater presence at the annual conference.”

**West Virginia University:** SEDAAG remains the top regional conference, at least as far as I know. Most faculty at WVU, though, are peripherally involved with SEDAAG, if at all, although that is more of an issue with the faculty here instead of SEDAAG itself. The biggest recommendation I'd have is to ensure, as much as possible, that the SEDAAG meeting is somewhat centrally located within the division. It is a challenge for people at WVU to travel all the way to Mississippi or Florida for a regional conference under limited-to-no travel allocations, and I'm sure the reverse would be true if the conference were to be held in WV or northern VA. While a virtual option might alleviate that somewhat, virtual conferences just aren't the same, and offer no chance for the important but spontaneous 'hallway chat' type interactions.”

## Student Representative Presentation

### Networking:

- SEDAAG is a great way for the region to come together, but I think it can improve on its opportunities for networking. Of course there are events where the attendees will come together, but maybe there should be an event that is solely focused on networking, like a career mingle.
- Many students who are members of SEDAAG are probably close to entering the workforce in some way, and although they can make connections during the event, it might be beneficial to have a dedicated event that is solely focused on networking between students and faculty.
- I think this can be implemented in two different ways:
  - One could be like a career mingle, where schools that are hiring soon (or organizations if they attend) could send a faculty member to speak with potential applicants.
  - Or, could just be a networking event with no specific jobs in mind and a more general discussion of research, so there is just more genuine conversation between faculty and students, but also between students.
- Other students could make others aware of jobs they are aware of, and then faculty will also be able to put a face with a name if someone applies from SEDAAG.
- This was originally planned for this year as just a networking event between students with games or crafts, but I think if it was expanded to something on this caliber, we could see some positive results from it.
- Maybe this can be run alongside SAGE lunch or on Sunday evening before the welcome reception in the future.

### Community College Students:

- Some background: my research during undergrad focused on ways to recruit two year college/community college students into the geosciences, and I also teach at Pellissippi State Community College.
- While in community college, many students are not exposed to geography unless they take an intro to geo class. And even then, those classes are more just surveys of the field. If we could get those teachers to see if any students are interested in the field, they could solidify their interest at SEDAAG.
- If it would be possible to get fee waivers for community college students, I think we would have a few (or possibly more!) that would find their passion at this conference, and then transfer to one of our southern universities shown at SEDAAG to continue to pursue a degree in geography.
- One of my Pellissippi students, Brailey, will be at the conference this year. In the beginning of the semester, I asked my class if anyone had a genuine interest in the field and he did. I immediately thought of bringing him to SEDAAG to show him all the research that involves geography, and he is so excited. He is hoping to transfer to UTK in a year to our department, after talking with some of our faculty at this event.
- But that is just at the Knoxville scale. We can reach out to other community colleges in the region and see if they would be interested, and then sponsor some of their students. This is a great way to increase enrollment throughout our universities, but also to bring more people into our field.
- With this, SEDAAG could expand the universities and colleges that participate in the organization.

## **Report to SEDAAG Steering Committee**

November 20, 2022

Atlanta, GA

### **1. 2022 Bowl Preview (As of 11/17)**

- 5 teams (Florida, Georgia/Texas, Kentucky/Alabama, TN/NC, and VA, Spoiler)
  - 37 Students pre-registered by a faculty sponsor or using the Google form
  - Questions and volunteers sufficient to field up to 8 teams
- 9 rounds of questions written by 10 writers
- 15 volunteers managing Sunday's bowl
- Faculty Dream Team participants: Dr. Marilyn Raphael, Dr. Bill Graves, Dr. Jamison Conley, Dr. Andy Walter, Dr. Nicole Hutton, and Dr. Joann Mossa
- Dream Team round questions written by Dr. Caleb Smith
- Championship round questions written by Dr. Michael Pretes

### **2. Future Needs and Concerns**

- Schedule Conflicts
  - Important source of travel funding for students
  - THANK YOU!!
- State Coordinators?

### **3. Budget**

- \$45.80 for additional MVP plaque b/c of tie after the bowl last year (already reimbursed)
- Receipt for 6 winning team plaques and 1 MVP plaque (\$213.05) given to Paul
- Travel funding for 2023 AAG
  - \$500 from AAG is provided whether division matches or not
  - In 2019, we received an additional \$500 from AAG because we also fund our students
  - Please approve travel funding for the team for 2023 at whatever level you feel appropriate and notify me, so I can give the students the best information possible when deciding to join the team for AAG.

Submitted by:

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