

2023 Steering Committee Meeting
Norfolk, November 19, 2023; 8:30 – 11am
(Breakfast provided)
Paper Free Meeting:

Reports available here: <https://sedaag.org/meeting-reports/>

1. Welcome and Introductions.
2. Thanks to outgoing officers and representatives.
3. Norfolk Meeting
 - a. Financial support
 - b. AAG resources
 - c. Initial financial estimates (Hawaii effect?)
4. 2024 Meeting (Greenville, SC) and beyond
 - a. Financial concerns (rising AV costs, limits to registration fees)
 - b. Meeting formats
5. AAG Grants
 - a. Meeting Subsidy grant, \$1,150: HBCU and Community College meeting registration fee waivers
 - b. Regional Support Grant, \$2,500: Stipend for Science Communications Fellow (SEDAAG social media development) plus Constant Contact subscription for Secretary
 - i. Margaret L. Walton has accepted the position beginning today!
6. SEDAAG Mini-grants for Ph.D. student research:
 - a. Future? Funding?
7. AAG Program Excellence Award Competition – Undergraduate Programs
8. Elections
 - a. Nominating Committee
 - b. Honors
 - c. IDEAL
9. State Report Highlights (State Representatives)
10. Vice President and Program Chair Report (Potter)
11. Treasurer's Report (McDaniel)
12. Secretary/Webmaster's Report and Communications (Sciuchetti)
13. Student Representative Update (Harris)
 - a. Young professionals lunch

Break... Resume at 10am

14. Geography Bowl Report (Drake)
15. *Southeastern Geographer* Report (Ambinakudige and Williams)
16. AAG Southeastern Div. Regional Councilor update (Lannon)
17. IDEAL Committee (Clapp)
18. Honors Update (Abee / Clapp)
19. Education Committee Report (Rahn)
20. SEDAAG 2024, Greenville, SC (Geoffrey Habron)
21. SEDAAG 2025, Lexington, KY
22. New business?

**9. a. Alabama SEDAAG Survey Summary: 2022-2023 Academic Year
2023 SEDAAG
Submitted by Dr. Jordan Cissell, Assistant Professor at Samford University**

A. Institutional Information

Approximately 11 universities in Alabama offer courses and/or degrees in geography or related fields. Eight of these universities responded to the 2023 SEDAAG Survey. The survey contacts and program information for these 8 programs are summarized in the table below:

Table 1. Universities Responding to the 2022-2023 SEDAAG Survey

Institution	Department and Survey Contact	Geography Degrees Offered
Auburn University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Geosciences • Dr. Luke Marzen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.A. in Geography • Minor in Geography • Undergraduate Certificate in GISc • Accelerated Bachelors/Masters (ABM) in Geography • M.S. in Geography • Ph.D. in Earth System Science • Graduate Certificate in GISc
Jacksonville State University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Chemistry and Geosciences • Dr. Mark Sciuchetti 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.S. in Geography • B.S. in Geography - Geospatial Technology • Minor in Geography • Undergraduate Certificate in Drone Piloting and Spatial Data Analytics • Undergraduate Certificate in Sustainable Trail Science • M.S. in Geographic Information Science and Technology (GIS&T)
Samford University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Geography and Sociology • Dr. Jennifer Speights-Binet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.S. in Geography • B.S. in Geography with Concentration in GIS • Minor in Traditional Geography • Minor in Environmental Studies • Undergraduate Certificate in GIS • Graduate Certificate in GIS (in partnership with Department of Biological & Environmental Sciences)
Troy University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Geospatial Informatics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.S. in Surveying and Geomatics Sciences

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Xutong Niu 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.S. in Geographic Information Science • Minor in Geography • Minor in Geographic Information Systems • Minor in Surveying and Geomatics Sciences • Minor in Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) • M.S. in Social Science with Geography Concentration
University of Alabama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Geography and the Environment • Dr. Matthew Therrell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.S. in Geography • B.A. in Geography • B.S. in Environmental Science • Minor in Geography • Minor in GIS for Geography Majors • Minor in GIS for Nonmajors • Minor in Environmental Studies • M.S. in Geography • Ph.D. in Geography • Graduate Certificate in GIS
University of Alabama in Huntsville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Atmospheric and Earth Science • Dr. Lavanya Ashokkumar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.S. in Atmospheric and Earth Science with Atmospheric Science and Meteorology Concentration • B.S. in Atmospheric and Earth Science with Earth System Science Concentration • Undergraduate Certificate in GIS and Remote Sensing • M.S. in Atmospheric Science • M.S. in Earth System Science • Ph.D. in Atmospheric Science • Graduate Certificate in GIS and Remote Sensing
University of North Alabama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Geoscience • Dr. Michael Pretes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.S./B.A. in Geography • B.S. in Geographic Information Science • B.S. in Sustainability • Minor in Geography • Minor in Geographic Information Science • Minor in Geology

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor in Geospatial Human-Computer Interaction • Minor in Sustainability • Undergraduate Certificate in Business GIS • Undergraduate Certificate in Community Development and Planning GIS • Undergraduate Certificate in Environmental GIS • Undergraduate Certificate in Remote Sensing • Undergraduate Certificate in Sustainable Trails and Waterways Development • Undergraduate Certificate in GIS • M.S. in Geographic Information Science (online only)
University of South Alabama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Earth Sciences • Dr. Carol F. Sawyer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.S. in Geography • Minor in Geography • Minor in Geographic Information Science and Technology • Undergraduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing Technology

B. Trends in Student Enrollment in Geography Courses

Enrollment in **undergraduate** geography courses is *increasing* at Jacksonville State University and Samford University; *stable* at Auburn University and the University of Alabama in Huntsville; and *decreasing* at the University of Alabama. At Troy University, undergraduate enrollment is *stable-to-subtly-increasing*. The University of North Alabama saw *record enrollment* in introductory world regional, physical, and human geography courses, and *stable-to-decreasing* enrollment in upper-level undergraduate courses. The University of South Alabama recorded an *increase* in enrollment for the first time in several years.

Enrollment in **graduate** geography courses is *increasing* at Jacksonville State University, the University of Alabama, and the University of Alabama in Huntsville. At Auburn University, graduate enrollment is *stable-to-increasing*. At Troy University, graduate enrollment is *stable-to-subtly-increasing*.

C. Trends in Geography Majors

The number of **undergraduate** geography majors is *increasing* at Troy University and the University of Alabama in Huntsville and *stable* at Jacksonville State University, Samford University, and the University of Alabama. Auburn University has an effort underway to increase the number of undergraduate majors. At the University of North Alabama, undergraduate majors are *stable-to-slightly-decreasing*. Undergraduate majors are *stable* at the University of South Alabama, but lower than pre-COVID numbers.

The number of students in **graduate** geography programs is *increasing* at Auburn University, Jacksonville State University, and Troy University; *stable* at the University of Alabama; and *decreasing* at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. The online M.S. program at the University of North Alabama had *decreasing* enrollments; the department has decided to eliminate the program and instead introduce graduate certificates.

D. Trends in Course Offerings

Auburn University's course offerings are *increasing*. Jacksonville State University has a good mix of undergraduate and graduate courses in physical geography, human geography, and geospatial technology, and their course offerings are *increasing*, particularly in remote sensing, drone piloting, political geography, and music geography. Samford University's course offerings are *stable* in general and *increasing* for GIS courses. Troy University's undergraduate course offerings are *decreasing*, and their graduate course offerings are *slightly increasing*. The University of Alabama's course offerings are *increasing*, primarily due to the addition of new faculty members. The University of Alabama in Huntsville's course offerings are *increasing*, including a new certificate program in GIS and courses in data analysis for earth science, Python programming for GIS, and big data in atmospheric and earth science. The University of North Alabama's course offerings are *increasing* for introductory, gen ed undergraduate courses and are more *limited* for upper-level undergraduate courses (based on student demand). The University of South Alabama reported that the College of Arts and Sciences supports their GIS curriculum, but a new environmental studies program is offering courses that are similar to existing geography courses. In the words of the University of South Alabama's survey contact, this "is creating conflict."

E. Jobs for Geography Graduates

Jobs in GIS and government were the most prevalent. All 8 survey respondents reported GIS/geospatial jobs, and 4 of the 8 respondents reported jobs in local, state, or federal government. Auburn University reported GIS, planning, resource management, business/marketing, data scientists, and local, state, and federal agencies. Jacksonville State University reported GIS analyst jobs, National Park Service, and entry-level government jobs. Samford University reported GIS, environmental fields, and graduate school. Troy University reported teaching and GIS. The University of Alabama reported that undergraduate and M.S. students mainly found geospatial jobs in industry, state government, and local government; Ph.D. students mainly found jobs in federal government and academia. The University of Alabama in Huntsville reported GIS or geospatial analyst, research assistant, and research scientist (for graduate students). The University of North Alabama reported GIS technicians and analysts, law enforcement, business, and aviation (airline pilots). The University of South Alabama reported government sector jobs in either planning or 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	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Brittany Wheeler, Lecturer (began Fall 2023)
Jacksonville State University	Dr. L. Joe Morgan	5	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently searching for new faculty for Fall 2024 • Will search in Fall 2024 for new faculty for Spring 2025
Samford University	Dr. Jennifer Speights-Binet	4	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new faculty
Troy University	Dr. Xutong Niu	2	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Min Xu (began Fall 2023)
University of Alabama	Dr. Matthew Therrell	18	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Tess Doeffinger (began Fall 2023) • Dr. Amobichukwu Amanambu (began Fall 2023) • Dr. Dapeng Li (began Fall 2023) • Will hire 3 new faculty in Fall 2024
University of Alabama in Huntsville	Dr. Lawrence Carey	3	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new faculty
University of North Alabama University of North Alabama (continued from previous page)	Dr. Michael Pretes	8	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In August 2022, Department of Geography... merged with Earth Science faculty to create new Department of Geoscience • Currently have 5 geographers and 3 Earth scientists, one of whom was hired to start in Fall 2023 • Hope to hire one new faculty member in coming year, but this is uncertain
University of South Alabama	Dr. Sytske Kimball	5	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiring a new instructor in January 2024 to replace a faculty member who left academia

G. State of Geography

The State of Geography in Alabama is varied. Several departments identified graduate programs, GIS courses and programs, and collaboration with departments and research centers across campus as strengths/distinctions/advantages. At the same time, several departments articulated the challenges of attracting undergraduate students/majors, communicating the value of geography within their university and beyond, and navigating curriculum overlaps with other programs at their university. **Each department's complete response is quoted below:**

Auburn University: “We have a stable to growing geography department. The strength is the graduate programs including the new PHD in Earth Systems Science. There is a renewed effort to recruit new undergraduate majors.”

Jacksonville State University: “The state of geography is very positive in our institution and state. The growth in GIS jobs across the country has positively influenced the discipline. The state would benefit from an introduction of geography in elementary, middle, and high school (especially in high schools - AP Human Geography), which is currently lacking. There is a need for a broader awareness of geography in the state and more broadly in the country. Issues with geography are the limits of both budget and curriculum. The divisions between human and physical geography are also a concern, possibly part of the reason we have difficulties selling our discipline to the general public.”

Samford University: “Samford Geography is a small program, but we are active, ambitious, and well-regarded on campus. Our faculty actively pursue relationships with faculty and students in departments across campus. We recently revised our environmental studies minor to make it more interdisciplinary. Along with our sociology colleagues, we recently introduced a new minor called Race, Ethnicity, and Social Justice. Our faculty are often recognized at the university level and beyond for excellence in teaching. Our faculty regularly lead study abroad classes in the Caribbean, Europe, and (new this coming summer) the American Southwest. We attract and serve students from a wide range of majors (including public health, environmental science, and marine science) through our course offerings. Many of these students add geography minors or GIS certificates, but fewer of them become geography majors.”

Troy University: “Overall, the number of students taking geography courses in our university is declining. The main reason is that students are not required to take Geography courses 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 and increased slightly this past year. 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.

Majority of students taking geography courses are online and they are difficult for us to track. It is difficult to increase enrollment for on-campus courses in geography.”

University of Alabama: “The state of geography as a department is very strong at our institution, we are well-supported by the University.”

University of Alabama in Huntsville: “We have been making progress with Earth science courses over the last 5 years. Our dept has a major focus in the Atmospheric science concentration due to our strong partnership with the National Weather Service and major research projects. We are also making progress in geospatial (GIS) and remote sensing technologies with collaboration with NSSTC and NASA research centers at UAH.

State of Earth Science in North Alabama - There has been an increase in the Geospatial industries over the last few years. We are working towards understanding the gap between the demands of GIS/RS industry and creating a strong curriculum for student retention (Students who continue to pursue career in the academic field after graduation).”

University of North Alabama: “Geography and Geoscience are less visible than before, largely due to more students enrolled online, and because of new majors and programs (such as data science, culinary arts, outdoor recreation, emergency management, and engineering technology) that compete for students. The bringing in of geologists into our department has changed the dynamic; we do not have a geology program or major, but those faculty teach courses in sustainability to support a Sustainability major. Our university recently signed an agreement with a university in China that has added about 55 new sustainability majors but the process has been complicated and fraught with challenges.”

University of South Alabama: “Geography is not well-recognized at this institution. At this point, administration and other faculty recognize the value of GIS more than Geography in general. A new program at the University in environmental sciences is seen as the biggest threat to the program as it creates classes already taught in our program and has the full backing of the administration.”

H. State of SEDAAG

Departments generally commended SEDAAG as a strong and active conference. Multiple departments suggested that SEDAAG do more to actively encourage student and faculty involvement with SEDAAG, particularly those at non-R1 institutions. Suggestions included more student grants and travel awards, networking events at the annual meeting tailored specifically to undergraduate students, and individualized communications from SEDAAG to specific faculty encouraging them to join SEDAAG. **Each department’s complete response is quoted below:**

Auburn University: “Our current faculty have not been very involved with SEDAAG. It might help for SEDAAG leadership to encourage individual faculty members to join SEDAAG.”

Jacksonville State University: “SEDAAG is in a good place providing our students an arena where they can collaborate. It would be nice to have SEDAAG more present in the discipline. It would be helpful if the journal was collaborating more with the smaller regional schools instead of catering to the R1 institutions. It is appreciative the work SEDAAG does for our community, but more engagement with the schools and collaboration between them would be nice.”

Samford University: “We consider SEDAAG a strong, healthy regional conference. Our department values SEDAAG, actively participates in the annual meeting each year, and regularly has multiple department members in SEDAAG leadership roles. We usually bring undergraduate students to SEDAAG, but are unable to this year due to travel costs.

We encourage SEDAAG to explore options to increase undergraduate involvement and accessibility. Because SEDAAG is many undergrad students' introduction to the world of academic conferences, they may be shy or intimidated at first. Maybe a special undergraduate social hour or other session would help students get acquainted with SEDAAG and each other? It might be worthwhile to survey undergraduate attendees after the conference this year and ask for their suggestions on how to enhance their experiences.”

Troy University: “I would like to see some shared information from other institutions in the region, such as their thoughts and plan for future recruiting, teaching, and research. I feel that geography as a discipline

is at a critical stage due to less attention from the general public and college students and impact of technology.”

University of Alabama: “I like SEDAAG. I think it is generally well attended by our students and some of our faculty. I don't have any particular suggestions for improvement.”

University of Alabama in Huntsville: “We have limited presence in the regional division, and would like to have your support in the annual meetings, both for the faculty and students if possible.”

University of North Alabama: “SEDAAG needs more people willing to be nominated and serve as officers and generally be more involved with the organization. SEDAAG is fortunate in that it has universities willing to host conferences. SEDAAG could offer more student awards and travel grants to support students attending its conferences.”

University of South Alabama: “The timing of the Regional Meeting presents a barrier to Geography faculty attending as a regional event we use for recruitment takes place two days before the meeting every year. Two-thirds of the full-time faculty have never attended the annual meeting, choosing instead to attend AGU and AAG's annual meeting.”

**9. b. Florida SEDAAG Survey Summary: 2023-2024 Academic Year
2023 SEDAAG**

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

A. Institutional Information

Eleven universities and colleges in Florida were identified as offering degrees and/or multiple courses in geography or related fields. Five out of these institutions completed the 2023 SEDAAG Survey. The contacts and degree information for these departments are summarized in the table below (Table 1).

Table 1. Universities Responding to the 2023-2024 SEDAAG Survey

Institution	Department and Survey Contact	Geography Degrees Offered
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
Santa Fe Community College	Social and Behavioral Sciences Dr. Heidi Lannon	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	Minor in Geography

B. Personnel

Table 2. Personnel

University	Department Chair	Full-Time Geography Faculty	Part-Time Geography Faculty	New Geography Faculty
Florida State University	Dr. Mark Horner	14	0	This year: 5 Next year: 2
Jacksonville University	Dr. Ray Oldakowski	2	4	This year: 0 Next year: 0
Santa Fe Community College	Dr. David Tegeder	1	2	This year: 0 Next year: 0
University of Florida	Dr. Jane Southworth	23	1	This year: 1 Next year: 1
University of North Florida	Dr. Russell Triplett	2	3	This year: 0 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.

The University of Florida reports a strong growth in the number of courses offered over the last few years, as a result of a number of new faculty being hired. This has increased undergrad enrollment, as well as grown the graduate program.

Table 2. Trends in student enrollment

Measure	Level (U/G)	Florida State University	Jacksonville University	Santa Fe Community College	University of Florida	University of North Florida
Student enrollment in geography classes	<i>U</i>	Stable	Stable	Stable/Decline ¹	Growing	Stable
	<i>G</i>	Stable	-	-	Growing	Stable
Geography Majors	<i>U</i>	Stable	Stable	-	Growing	-
	<i>G</i>	Stable	-	-	Growing	-
Course offerings	<i>U</i>	Growing	Stable	Stable	Growing	Stable
	<i>G</i>	Growing	-	-	Growing	Stable
Jobs for Geography Graduates	<i>U</i>	Public/private sector, academia	GIS jobs	Transfer to other institutions for Geography degree.	Environmental jobs (public/private sector), grad school	GIS jobs
	<i>G</i>				Academia, NGOs, government	
¹ Enrollments in Physical Geography, that meets Writing in the Major, are stable. Enrollments in World Regional Geography and Cultural Geography meeting the General Social Science credit and are declining. This is due to the requirements of the Florida Core Curriculum, that does not include Geography.						

D. State of Geography.

Please provide a few statements summarizing your view on the "State of Geography" in your institution and state, identifying both positive and negative aspects. Feel free to speak to specific a range of specific issues, including but not limited to budget, curriculum, turf wars, technology.

Below are copied statements from the different institutions. Some of the statements have been shortened/edited for clarity.

SF: Geography has been stable at Santa Fe College, due to the lead faculty 1 year appointment overseas and classes taught only by adjunct faculty. Adjuncts are not involved in College Administration. Geography competes against Political Science, History, Psychology and Sociology classes for students. These disciplines meet Florida Core Education requirements.

In addition, we'd would like support to get Geography to be recognized as part of the State of Florida Core Curriculum.

UF: Geography is a well-respected and quite well funded program at UF, mainly due to our high ranking in our college for our external funding production. Geography has been in the top 5 of units/departments in terms of research productivity in our college over the last 6 years, and this year is ranked #3.

In addition, we are always adding new programs and certificates and respond nimbly to new initiatives. Our faculty are very highly engaged across campus so we are a well-known program. Our college funding has increased – faculty and grads, and we have an exciting trajectory. We have a new Meteorology degree starting Fall 24 and have a new certificate program in GeoAI. In addition, we have a new Off-Book program in GIS for professionals across the state.

UNF: Geography is a small part of our department in terms of the number of faculty but provides a consistent contribution to the University's General Education program and the College's GIS and Economic Geography core courses.

FSU and JU did not provide any comments.

E. State of SEDAAG

Please provide a few statements summarizing your view on the "State of SEDAAG," providing some feedback on the Division's strengths and weaknesses. What suggestions do have in improving the Regional Division as it seeks to serve members through the annual meeting, journal, awards program, etc.?

The view of SEDAAG is positive among the departments that answered the survey. Some departments have consistent faculty and grad student attendance at the annual meeting, while attendance is more sporadic from other departments. The annual meeting is described as one of the top geography conferences, and excellent for professional development, in particular for Stand Alone Geographers and Geographers from small programs.

One respondent highlighted the lack of funding for membership and travel as a limiting factor for attending annual meetings held in more distant parts of the region, another mentioned that attendance could be higher if the timing of the meeting was changed (from the weekend before Thanksgiving).

Regarding the Southeastern Geographer, one respondent asked for clearer submission guidelines and review process.

**9. c. Georgia SEDAAG Survey Summary: 2022-2023 Academic Year
2023 SEDAAG**

Submitted by Dr. Helen Rosko, Assistant Professor at Georgia Southern University

A. Institutional Information

Approximately 11 universities in Georgia offer courses and/or degrees in geography or related fields. Nine of these universities responded to the 2023 SEDAAG Survey. The contacts and degree information for all 11 departments are summarized in the table below, with notations from the two that did not respond:

Table 1. Universities Responding to the 2023 SEDAAG Survey

Institution	Department and Survey Contact	Geography Degrees Offered & Related Information
Columbus State University	Department of History, Philosophy, & Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● B.S. Interdisciplinary Studies ● Minor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Geographic Information Systems and Science ○ Geography
Fort Valley State University <i>*Did not respond to survey</i>	Department of Behavioral & Social Sciences Dr. Iheayni Osondu <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Professor of Geography & GIS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Minor in Geography
Georgia College and State University	Department of History and Geography Dr. Amy Sumpter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Professor of Geography & Geography Coordinator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● B.A. in Geography ● Certificate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Geographic Information Systems
Georgia Gwinnett College	Department of History and Geography Dr. David Dorell <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Associate Professor of Geography 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Minor in Geography ● Serves: General Education core and Environmental Studies program
Georgia Southern University	School of Earth, Environment, & Sustainability - Program of Geosciences Dr. Rob Yarbrough <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Associate Professor of Geography 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● B.S. Geosciences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Concentration: Geography ● Minor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Geography ○ Geographic Information Systems
Georgia State University	Department of Geosciences Dr. Katherine Hankins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Professor & Chair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● B.A. in Geosciences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Concentration: Geography ● B.S. in Geosciences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Concentration: Geography

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Certificate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Geographic Information Systems (Professional) ● M.S. in Geography
Kennesaw State University	Department of Geography & Anthropology Dr. Shannon Hall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lecturer of Geography 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● B.A. in Geography ● B.S. Geospatial Sciences ● Minor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Geography ○ Environmental Studies ● Certificates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Geographic Information Systems ○ Land surveying
University of Georgia <i>*Did not respond to survey</i>	Department of Geography <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Hilda Kurtz 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● B.A. in Geography ● B.S. in Geography ● B.S. in Atmospheric Sciences ● Minor in Geography ● Certificates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Geographic Information Systems ○ Local Food Systems ○ Urban & Metropolitan Studies
University of North Georgia	Lewis F. Rogers Institute for Environmental and Spatial Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Minor in Geography
University of West Georgia	Department of Natural Sciences Dr. Andy Walter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Professor of Geography & Director of Geography Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● B.S. in Geography <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Minor in Geography ● Certificates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Geographic Information Systems ○ Atmospheric Science ○ Stream Restoration
Valdosta State University	Department of Chemistry & Geosciences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Paul Vincent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● B.S. in Environmental Geosciences

B. Trends in Student Enrollment in Geography Courses

Overall, enrollment in *undergraduate* geography courses in the state of Georgia is varied with some programs reporting *declining* enrollment with mixed expectations for the future (4) (e.g., Georgia Gwinnett College, Kennesaw State University, University of West Georgia, University of North Georgia). For example, Kennesaw State University mentions that Summer 2023 enrollment was up and expects

enrollments to further increase with the rollout of two new 1000-level Gen Ed courses to the University Core Curriculum (launched in F22). University of West Georgia reports declining enrollment but at slower rates than the overall enrollment decline at the University.

Other programs report *steady* enrollment in *undergraduate* courses (4) (e.g. Georgia College & State University, Georgia Southern University, Georgia State University, Valdosta State). In these programs, core/general education classes tend to get filled (5) (e.g. Georgia College & State University, Georgia Southern University, Georgia State University, Kennesaw State University, and University of North Georgia).

Finally, at the *undergraduate* level, other programs report *growth* in enrollment (2) (e.g., Columbus State University & Georgia State University). For Columbus State University these enrollments come from the GIS Certificate Program and for Georgia State University increased enrollments come from offering Environmental Science courses, a new Geog 2200: Mapping Our World, and upper-level courses continue to be in high demand (B.S. Geoscience, geography concentration and B.S. Environmental Science). At Georgia College & State University upper-level courses tend to fill to about 60%.

There are only two programs that responded to the survey offering courses at the *graduate* level; these report *steady* and full courses in their programs. Georgia Southern University expects *slight increase* in the future due to students in Environmental Sciences (M.S. & Ph.D.) enrolling in geography courses. Georgia College & State University continues to have graduate courses in their catalog but has not offered graduate sections in recent years.

C. Trends in Geography Majors

The number of *undergraduate* geography majors appears to be *stable* for most programs that offer a major (3) (e.g., Georgia College & State University (~22-26), Georgia Southern University (~25), & Georgia State University).

Other programs report a *decline* in the number of *undergraduate* geography majors but for specific reasons (3) (e.g., Kennesaw State University, University of West Georgia, & Valdosta State University). Kennesaw State University reports that while geography majors are declining, majors in Geospatial Sciences are increasing and they report increasing recruitment efforts for both majors. University of West Georgia reports declines for two reasons 1) overall decline in enrollment at the University and 2) move to online geography has made it difficult to recruit majors without a face-to-face component. University of West Georgia typically has around 34 - 40 majors but only has 18 at the moment.

Georgia State University is the only program to report a *growing* number of majors in geography courses (doubling in recent years). They credit this increase as a result of restructuring the B.A. in Geosciences, geography concentration to reduce the number of required hours and recruiting from introductory courses. Their restructuring effort better aligns with other B.A. programs offered in the University creating less pathway bottlenecks.

For undergraduate programs without majors they report steady offerings and enrollment to support other majors (e.g., Columbus State & University of North Georgia).

Georgia Southern University reports that geography majors in *graduate* courses are typically *steady* but depends on the number of available Teaching Assistantships.

D. Trends in Course Offerings

The trend in geography course offerings at the **undergraduate** level are **steady** (6) (e.g. Columbus State University, Georgia College & State University, Georgia Southern University, Georgia State University, Kennesaw State University, University of North Georgia). The most steady courses tend to be core/general education/service courses offered at lower-levels with physical geography/GIS courses being most frequently offered and popular (e.g., Georgia State University, University of North Georgia).

Two programs report **declines** in the number of undergraduate geography course offerings (2). At the University of West Georgia this is related to heightened scrutiny of low-enrolled courses. The University of North Georgia reports reducing the number of sections offered in geography courses but the number of students in each section is rising post-COVID. Georgia College & State University reports infrequent offerings of upper-level courses to ensure they fill as much as possible while continuing to allow students to progress and graduate.

While other programs report **increasing** the number of undergraduate geography course offerings (5) (e.g. Georgia College & State University, Georgia Gwinnett College, Georgia Southern University, Georgia State University, & Valdosta State University). Georgia Southern University has been able to expand course offerings because of having a visiting instructor of geography the past two years. However, this role will not be renewed and they expect offerings to decrease but remain steady.

At the **graduate** level, courses remain **steady**, with consistent offerings and enrollment related to GIS courses (e.g., Georgia Southern University & Georgia State University).

E. Jobs for Geography Graduates

All responding programs report excellent job placement for geography majors and related students in their programs. The **GIS industry** is overwhelmingly reported as the top job placement across all reporting programs (9) (e.g., Columbus State University, Georgia College & State University, Georgia Gwinnett College, Georgia Southern University, Georgia State University, Kennesaw State, University of West Georgia, University of North Georgia, & Valdosta State University). GIS jobs tend to be in the private sector, public (e.g., municipal, county, state) or other organizations. Other programs report high placement in the **education** sector (e.g., Columbus State University & Georgia College & State University), **urban planning/development** (e.g, Georgia Southern University, Georgia State University, & University of West Georgia). There is a general trend towards **environmentally related jobs** (e.g., environmental consulting, environmental modeling, environmental engineering, land surveying etc.) (e.g, Georgia State University, Kennesaw State University, University of West Georgia, University of North Georgia, & Valdosta State University). Finally, two programs report students continuing on to **graduate school** (e.g, Georgia Southern University & University of North Georgia).

F. Personnel

Table 2. Personnel

University	Department Head	Full-Time Geography Faculty	Part-Time Geography Faculty	New Geography Faculty
Columbus State University	Dr. Bryan Banks (History)	1	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 permanent vacancy • Looking for new lecturer in geography
Fort Valley State University	Dr. Iheayni Osondu	Unclear	Unclear	Unknown
Georgia College & State University	Dr. Aran MacKinnon (History)	4 (3 Tenured)	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put in request for permanent lecturer of GIS and/or physical geography
Georgia Gwinnett College	Dr. Nathan Orgill (History)	5	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A
Georgia Southern University	Dr. Danny Gleason (Biology)	7	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Helen Rosko (F22) • 1 Visiting Asst. Prof, ending S24 (no new temporary hires)
Georgia State University	Dr. Katherine Hankins	21	6 1 Visiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Carrie Freshour (S23) • Dr. Rachel Scarlett (F23)
Kennesaw State University	Dr. Brandon Lundy (Anthropology)	14	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Mostafa Arastounia • Hiring 2 limited Assistant Professor/Instructors (S24) • 1 Full-time lecturer F24
University of Georgia <i>*Did not respond to survey</i>	Dr. Hilda Kurtz	25	Unclear	Unclear
University of West Georgia	Dr. Greg Payne (Biology)	5	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Andrew Ivester, 2-year renewable lecturer position
University of North Georgia	Dr. Jeff Turk (Engineering)	6	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A

Valdosta State University	Dr. Kurt Winkelman	7	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A - likely to be a problem in coming years with two upcoming faculty retirements
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G. State of Geography

The State of Geography in Georgia is varied. Several programs report **robustness** and **growth** related to GIS programs/courses (major, minors, certificates, etc.) (e.g., Columbus State University, Georgia College & State University, & University of North Georgia).

Other programs report increasing **pressure** and **marginalization** primarily related to politically-driven direction from the Board of Regents that flags low-enrolling and low-awarding programs and overall state sanctioned budget cuts (5) (e.g., Georgia College & State University, Georgia Southern University, University of West Georgia, University of North Georgia, & Valdosta State University). To counter this pressure some programs are rebranding, for example Georgia Southern University has merged majors with Geology to create a new degree program in Geosciences and University of West Georgia is requesting the program to be renamed as Environment, Sustainability, and GIS. Other pressure and marginalization is related to broader decline of traditional academic programs and subjects in higher education and overall turbulence in higher education (e.g., Georgia Gwinnett College & Valdosta State University).

Georgia State University is the only program in the State to report true **excitement** about the State of Geography. The faculty are well respected and known across the University and the department recently received an NSF Cultural Transformation in the Geosciences Community grant, amounting to \$7.2 million for 5 years, engaging community partnerships to address socio-environmental issues in Atlanta. Well done Georgia State University!

Each responding programs complete response is quoted below:

Columbus State University: “Geography’s growth area has been in GIS and in particular, the GIS Certificate Program. CSU aims to turn the GIS program into a full undergraduate degree once an additional faculty member is hired for next year. There is strong support from Academic Affairs to make GIS a degree that focuses on ‘career readiness’ at CSU. Community Geography had been a strong focus of the department prior to the pandemic but the retirement of the professor who oversaw that program stalled its activity and growth. Still, community geography will continue to be an important element of the geography program once GIS is fully realized. Community engaged research and projects through mapping will play an important role in the program’s public service to the city and region. Other curricular development will focus on regional areas, in particular Latin America with a focus on Brazil and East Asia.”

Georgia College & State University: “The demand for employees with GISc skills seems to be growing in Georgia, and we are contacted frequently by county governments in our area looking for potential candidates. The demand for teachers with geography backgrounds is large as well, particularly those who can teach earth science. The Board of Regents in our state has recently dedicated itself to eliminating all programs that cannot generate at least 10 graduates per year, regardless of the size of the institution or if the program is cost effective. We constantly have to defend our existence and importance in the state and at our institution. The geographers across the state work pretty collaboratively, which provides a wonderful resource to those of us in mixed departments or as stand-alone geographers. Geographers

would be well-served to make sure that folks in admissions are aware of their programs and can identify potentially interested students. We may lose our B.A. in geography in the upcoming year.”

Georgia Gwinnett College: “We are seeing a general decline in the sorts of subjects that previously defined colleges/universities, e.g., History, Mathematics, and Geography and growth in subjects like filmmaking and video game design. Our students come in ignorant of the rest of the world, and leave only slightly more enlightened.”

Kennesaw State University: “I’ve only been a full-time faculty member at KSU for two years so I really haven’t been around long enough to be able to know much, but I do feel that the geography program is well supported by our college and the university, and I think we’re treated fairly in terms of the budget, curriculum, and technology requests. I’m not aware of turf wars with other departments.”

Georgia Southern University: “The B.A. Geography degree will be on a teach out starting AY 2024, students will continue to access geography through a concentration under the new Geosciences degree. Students will now earn a B.S. in Geosciences, we expect 65-70 majors/year. The decision to merge Geography with Geology into Geosciences results from pressures within the USG because the Geography program was flagged as low enrolling and low awarding. At a higher level, our department (now program) was merged with the Institute of Coast Plain Science to form the new School of Earth, Environment, and Sustainability (SEES). SEES now offers several degree programs: B.S. in Geosciences (concentrations in Geography and Geology), B.S. in Sustainability Science, M.S. in Environmental Science, M.S. in Applied Geography and Ph.D. in Environmental Science. Our geography courses are an integral part of the new degree programs housed in our new school. We remain optimistic and hopeful that course enrollment and majors will increase in the coming years. In general, higher up budgetary constraints across all USG institutes have affected our ability to consistently have visiting faculty and offer them livable wages.”

Georgia State University: “The state of geography in terms of substance and spirit is quite strong! While our department name and degree names are Geosciences, geography courses and viewpoints have deeply shaped the success of the department, and geographers are well known across the university. Our department was recently awarded an NSF Cultural Transformation in the Geosciences Community grant, which is \$7.2 million for 5 years. The funding will support the further development of the CSAW (Community Soil Air Water) learning ecosystem, in which faculty and students join community partners to address socio-environmental issues in Atlanta.”

University of West Georgia: “It is stable in comparison to the university as a whole. Most programs have experienced the same declines as geography, some greater and some less, due to enrollment decline. We lost a faculty member, who took a position at a Sustainable Transportation organization (she left academia). The provost approved us to hire a replacement, but not tenure-track (instead a two-year instructor that can be renewed). While we were disappointed to not be approved for a tenure-track position, ours was one of the only hires approved outside of the approved hires in the several programs that are growing or targeted for growth. The Geography program exists as one of five programs in a Department of Natural Sciences, including Geology, Physics, Chemistry, and Biology. Next year we will move into a new College of Science, Mathematics, and Computing. We are not sure if and how this will impact the Geography program. We have requested that our program name be changed to Environment, Sustainability, and GIS and we will continue to offer a B.S. in Geography. The university overall faces budgetary issues due to enrollment decline and a large politically-driven cut imposed by the state legislature (this was imposed on all schools in the state system). Our enrollment decline has slowed and we almost broke even this year.”

University of North Georgia: “A little under half of the faculty in UNG’s Institute for Environmental Spatial Analysis (IESA) are academically trained geographers. The main focus of IESA’s degree program is to train our majors to be knowledgeable users of GIS and thus the main focus of our required courses deal with GIS. Geography courses are not a large component of our curriculum and serve mostly as core curriculum courses for non-majors. UNG (as part of the University System of Georgia) is not allowed to have a Geography degree because it would be in competition with other USG Universities/Colleges.”

Valdosta State University: “Enrollment at VSU has declined in the last two academic years with resulting budget cuts. The department in which Geosciences has been housed was broken up & the disciplines merged with other departments. Geosciences faculty feel like unwanted step children since the department office is located in a separate building and we have no administrative support.”

H. State of SEDAAG

Reporting programs in the state of Georgia have solid involvement in SEDAAG have an overall positive view regarding the State of SEDAAG. Programs commend SEDAAG on their efforts to support undergraduate research and participation (e.g., Columbus State University, Georgia Southern University, University of North Georgia), networking opportunities (e.g., Georgia College & State University), and overall positive conference experience (e.g., Georgia Gwinnett College, Georgia Southern University, Georgia State University, & University of West Georgia). Finally, several programs noted the continued quality of the *Southeastern Geographer* (e.g., Georgia State University & University of West Georgia).

A few suggestions include: 1) increased student support 2) department or program mentoring award, and 3) flexible meeting dates.

Each department’s complete response is quoted below:

Columbus State University: “SEDAAG is in a strong position, I think, but is faced with the same challenges as most academic organizations: steady membership among geographers in graduate school and early career. The reduction of institutional funding for conference travel has many untenured faculty members choosing to go to regional or national AAG meetings. In many respects, the AAG offers niche disciplinary community engagement and is perceived to be a stronger or more valued form of scholarship presentation for tenure and/or promotion.”

Georgia College & State University: “SEDAAG continues to provide a great annual meeting, in particular networking opportunities for faculty, students, and professionals. I think it would be great for SEDAAG to provide a department or program mentoring award, similar to the AAG.”

Georgia Gwinnett College: “SEDAAG is a bright spot for many geographers in the southeast. At the very least it is a collegial organization with a friendly, low-stakes annual meeting.”

Kennesaw State University: “Since I haven’t been at KSU very long, I don’t have any suggestions of anything that could be improved. I haven’t attended SEDAAG yet, but I believe that some of my colleagues do attend.”

Georgia Southern University: “SEDAAG remains an important and positive regional conference experience for both our undergraduate and graduate students. As a department with strong undergraduate research and representation at SEDAAG, we greatly appreciate any effort from SEDAAG to support their attendance and representation. It would be great if SEDAAG could extend financial support opportunities to undergraduates (e.g., travel support, research opportunities/support, etc.) and student support more broadly. We imagine these efforts would increase membership and participation at the annual conference and get students excited about geography!”

Georgia State University: “We were excited to participate in the hosting of SEDAAG last year (though had minimal involvement in the planning) and look forward to bringing more students and faculty to the upcoming meeting. Faculty in the department agree that participation would be even greater if the timing of the meeting were changed. Please, please find a different time, SEDAAG leadership! The journal has remained strong. Thanks to the editorial teams over the past few cycles for elevating the *Southeastern Geographer!*”

University of West Georgia: “It seems to be relatively healthy. Last year’s conference in Atlanta was energetic and well-attended. I appreciate the continued quality of the journal. It does seem like the flagship institutions do not value SEDAAG like they once did but overall, it seems to be a vibrant organization.”

University of North Georgia: “Our view on the “State of SEDAAG” is very positive. Our faculty try to attend every year and for the past three years students from UNG have presented at the annual meeting. The one suggestion we have to provide more opportunities for student travel awards related to the World Geography Bowl so we can bring students that are early in their academic career and are not yet ready to present.”

Valdosta State University: “Unfortunately, none of the Geography faculty are active with SEDAAG so I have no insight on the State of SEDAAG.”

Key Takeaways

- There are opportunities to increase enrollment in geography courses related to expanding general education, core, and/or service courses at Universities and Colleges.
 - Georgia State University presents a model plan for implementing this: popular lab science sequence for non-science majors: Geog 1112: Weather and Climate + Geog 1113 (over 1,000 students enrolled F23): Landforms, Geog 1101: Human Geography (~250 enrolled F23), Geog 2200: Mapping our World (~100 students/semester).
- There are opportunities to increase geography majors by reducing program of study and pathway bottlenecks and barriers (Georgia State University), rebranding/new introductory courses (e.g. Georgia Southern University, Georgia State University, University of West Georgia), and merging/rebranding programs (e.g. Georgia Southern University, Georgia State University, University of West Georgia)
- The ability to offer more courses is connected to the number of faculty and overall enrollment trends at Universities and Colleges (regardless of geography). Constraints largely outside the control of individual programs (USG, Board of Regents) are affecting the number of courses that are offered within programs. Programs might want to consider closely looking at their curriculum and pathways to ensure they have a fair representation of geography courses in their catalog, are titled in an attractive manner and facilitate easy progress to degree to help increase course offerings and enrollment.
- Increasing program focus and efforts on communicating the marketability of geography skills post-graduation for securing employment could be a productive avenue for recruiting majors and increasing enrollment in programs. Reporting programs overwhelmingly report good news in successfully placing their graduates in careers; this presents an opportunity to elevate the discipline of geography and the value of geographic training.

- Geography programs across the State are developing novel and productive ways to handle challenges related to their current state and growth. Increasing communication and collaboration between programs presents a valuable way to pool resources and ideas for collective stabilization and growth.
- Finally, related to the solicitation of the survey, I have two primary suggestions: 1) It might be worthwhile considering what schools/colleges programs fall under. This could inform general trends regarding geography: its identification within the natural/physical sciences, social sciences, or arts and humanities; potential pathways for programs to move towards, or finding more institutional support opportunities, and 2) For soliciting responses to the survey, I also emailed any program administrator and specifically geography coordinator I could find, beyond just the department chair. I found this to be a good way to gather a response as chairs are typically swamped. I have updated the SEDAAG Department Chair list accordingly.

**9. d. Kentucky SEDAAG Survey Summary: 2023-2024 Academic Year
2023 SEDAAG**

Submitted by Dr. Michele Abee, Assistant Professor at Bellarmine University

A. Institutional Information

There are 5 universities in Kentucky that offer certificates and/or degrees in geography or related fields. The universities that offer programs in geography or geography-related degrees include:

1. Eastern Kentucky University
2. Murray State University
3. University of Kentucky
4. University of Louisville
5. Western Kentucky University

*Northern Kentucky University – program no longer offered, teaching out.

Two of these universities, University of Kentucky, and University of Louisville, responded to the 2023-2024 SEDAAG Survey. Contact information and responses to the survey are summarized below:

Table 1. Universities Responding to the 2023-2024 SEDAAG Survey

Institution	Department and Survey Contact	Geography Degrees Offered
Bellarmino University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Environmental Studies, and Department of Sociology and Anthropology • Dr. Michele Abee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None • Courses Offered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduction to Human Geography ○ Special Topics in Geography ○ Introduction to Geographic Information Systems
University of Kentucky (UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Geography • Dr. Matthew Wilson, Chair and Professor of Geography 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.S. in Geography • B.A. in Geography • Minor in Geography • Minor in Mapping and GIS • Minor in Urban Studies • M.A. in Geography • Ph.D. in Geography
University of Louisville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Geographic and Environmental Sciences • Dr. Maegen Rochner, Assistant Professor • Dr. Wei Song, Chair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.S. in Applied Geography • M.S. in Applied Geography • Accelerated B.S./M.S. in Applied Geography

B. Trends in Student Enrollment in Geography Courses

At Bellarmine University:

Undergraduate:

- Two courses are consistently offered: GEOG 175 Introduction to Human Geography and ENVS 310 Geographic Information Systems.
- GEOG 175 - Introduction to Human Geography offered every semester; switched to an online asynchronous format and now hosts 30 students a semester.
- ENVS 310 – Geographic Information Systems – enrollment is increasing, and the course has 20 students a year. It was added as an elective to the Data Science major and minor, it is also a minor for the Anthropology and Sociology majors.

At the *University of Louisville*:

Undergraduate:

- Experiencing a 3-year positive trend in course enrollments
- Teach on average 1,500 students/year.
- Graduate course enrollments are steady.

Graduate:

- Steady trend with 10 – 12 master’s students each fall.

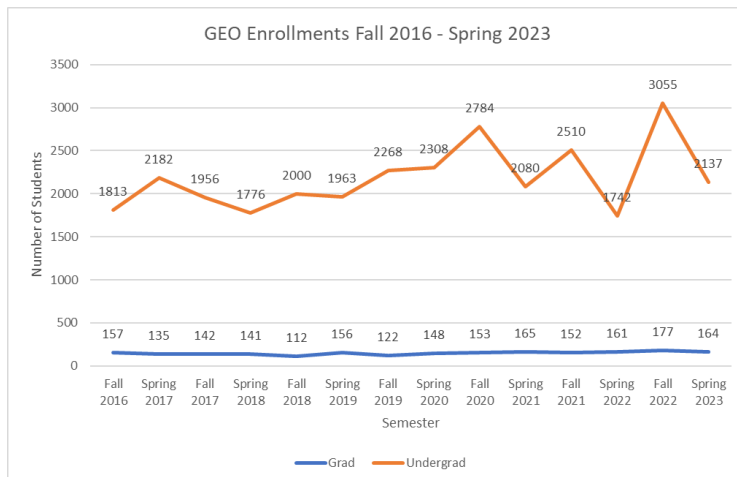
At the *University of Kentucky*:

Undergraduate:

- Trending upward

Graduate:

- The current trend is slightly upward.



C. Trends in Geography Majors

At the *University of Louisville*:

- There is a positive trend in majors between 2018 to 2022. As of Fall 2022, there were 77 declared majors.

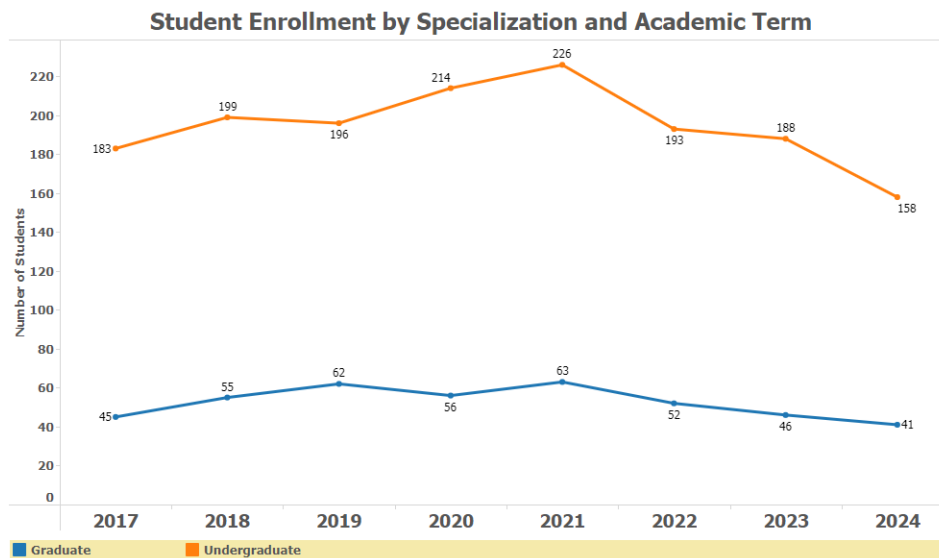
At the *University of Kentucky*:

Undergraduate:

- Undergraduate degrees awarded: 29.
- Undergraduate enrollments have shown a slight decrease in the past few years, but we are working to add a mapping major option soon that will bring in more majors.

Graduate:

- Master’s Degree: 3
- PhD Degree: 2
- Graduate enrollment has also been fairly consistent with a slight decrease in the past few years.



D. Trends in Course Offerings

At the *University of Louisville*:

- Trends in course offerings are positive.
- Created newer courses offerings as of their newer meteorology program/track and new tenure-track and term faculty.
- There are now more course offerings in climate, environmental conflict and human-environment interactions, urban analysis in alignment with major tracks, new programs, and department name change.

At the *University of Kentucky*:

- UK has remained steady in their upper division geography course offerings, while expanding their capacities in lower division geography course offerings (to include GenEd).

E. Jobs for Geography Graduates

At the *University of Louisville*:

- Local/state/federal government (metro parks, census, others).
- Environmental consulting (Stantec).
- Private (non-profit, urban analysis, energy), ESRI, National Weather Service, Good maps; other environmental companies.

At the *University of Kentucky*:

- Graduates work in environmental management, urban planning, GIS, and RS specialty firms, as well as nonprofits.
- There are also a few entrepreneurs.

F. Personnel

Table 2. Personnel

University	Department Head	Full-Time Geography Faculty	Part-Time Geography Faculty	New Geography Faculty
University of Kentucky	Dr. Matt Wilson	20	4	August 2023, Visiting Assistant Professor Abdul Aijaz
University of Louisville	Dr. Wei Song	12	6	Since 2020, Dr. Scott Gunter Dr. Kalpana Venkatasubramanian

G. State of Geography

From the *University of Louisville*,

- **Negative** - state policy and funding, perceptions of department as non-STEM by administration, new budget models based on course enrollment (although our department carries a lot of gen-ed work), "turf wars" with sustainability BA and "build-your-own-major" programs in liberal studies (students build environmental science or climate change degrees) - *this last bit, along with other prompts, led us to change our department name to Geographic and Environmental Sciences.*
- **Positive** - trends in enrollment, rebounding after COVID and with recent name change suggest *positive response and recognition of course offerings and job prospects* with geography major (growth has benefited from meteorology program, new accelerated BS/MS program, environmental analysis, and urban analysis tracks at UofL).

From the *University of Kentucky*:

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

H. State of SEDAAG

From the *University of Louisville*,

- Of the faculty, Maegen Rochner is the most consistent attendee of SEDAAG meetings and has attended since her master's program at the University of Tennessee.
- Strengths - SEDAAG's atmosphere is good for first-time student presenters, undergraduate researchers, climate, and culture are typically positive, promoting a good space for networking, reuniting with colleagues, introducing students to conferencing in a safe, helpful space.
- Student Awards are prestigious, attract strong students with groundbreaking research, and winners are appropriately honored through the Honors Banquet.
- Without knowing numbers, attendance at SEDAAG appears to be steady. Of Maegen's group of colleagues within her sub-discipline, attendance is quite regular, and she expects the same people every year.
- Perhaps, fewer "new" faculty are attending, and the conference is dominated by regulars.
- UofL itself has low attendance at SEDAAG, which is something Maegen is trying to remedy through promoting the regional conference to students and faculty.

From the *University of Kentucky*:

- UK hopes that UK Geography can increase their participation at SEDAAG and hopes to someday host SEDAAG in Lexington.
- The new Kentucky State Representative from SEDAAG is Bethany Craig, a PhD student at UK.

9. e. Mississippi SEDAAG Survey Summary: 2022-2023 Academic Year
2023 SEDAAG
Submitted by

In the state of Mississippi there are 15 institutions of higher learning. Eight of those are public with two offering degrees in Geography: Mississippi State University and the University of Southern Mississippi. Only Mississippi University for Women offers a minor in Geography while G.I.S./G.I.T. degrees are offered at Mississippi State, University of Southern Mississippi, Delta State University, and Alcorn State University.

Institution	Department/Contact	Geography Degrees Offered	Faculty	New Faculty/Positions
Alcorn State University	Samuel Nwaneri-Agriculture snwaneri@alcorn.edu	None	1 shared across other disciplines	None
Delta State University	Chris Smith- GIT cdsmith@deltastate.edu	None	2 in GIT	None
Jackson State University	John Proctor-History and Philosophy usmplanner@yahoo.com	None	1 Lecturer	None
Mississippi State University	Brian Williams-Department of Geosciences bsw63@msstate.edu	B.S. in Geosciences with a concentration in Geology, Geography, Environmental Geosciences, Broadcast Meteorology, Professional Meteorology, and GIS. Minors in Geospatial and Remote Sensing. M.S. in Meteorology, Geospatial Sciences, Environmental Geosciences, Geology, and Geography. Ph.D. in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences	28 Geoscience faculty, 11 of which are in Geography or geographic-related fields	New hire of Dr. Michelle Saunders Looking for a new hire to teach human and world regional geography.
Mississippi University for Women	Ann Fletchall-History and Political Sciences amfletchall@muw.edu	Minor only	1 Lecturer	None

Mississippi Valley State University	Richard Mushi-Social Sciences rjmushi@mvsu.edu	None	1 Lecturer	None
University of Mississippi	David Rutherford-Teacher Education druther@olemiss.edu	None	3 shared with other departments	None
University of Southern Mississippi	Clay Tucker and David Holt-School of Biological and Earth Sciences clay.tucker@usm.edu david.h.holt@usm.edu	GIS/GIT Certificate or Badge Remote Sensing Badge B.S. in Geography M.S. in Geography	8 total- 5 in Hattiesburg and 3 in Long Beach (Gulf Coast)	No new for this year, possible hire in the following year.

B. Enrollment Trends

Enrollment in geography courses in Mississippi is generally flat with a slight decline noticed at schools that do not have a major or minor in Geography. Over the past five years programs have identified a general decline in enrollment, which has been attributed to COVID and the post-COVID job market available. However, schools have noticed in the past two years stability in enrollment. Schools that have a geography major have observed stability in course enrollments with the inkling of a slight increase. Mississippi State sees a need in stabilizing enrollments to aid in the university’s goal of sustaining geography in the in the American South.

Smaller colleges typically offer an introductory course in World Regional Geography through an adjunct or instructor that is shared with other disciplines. Those enrollments have also stabilized after a post-COVID decline.

New hires in the previous year at Mississippi State and the University of Southern Mississippi have also been attributed to the stability with the hope of injecting some new life into programs and enrollment in courses.

C. Trends in Majors

Like the trends of enrollment in courses, the trends in majors has also leveled off after a COVID decline. Only Southern Mississippi and Mississippi State offer degrees in Geography, and both have noted that majors and minors have been steady over the past two years.

D. Course Offerings

No new course offerings are of note in Mississippi as almost every college and university offers at least an introductory World Regional Geography course. Only Mississippi Valley, Delta State, Alcorn State, Jackson State, and the University of Mississippi offer additional courses with Delta State and Alcorn State focusing on GIT/GIS. Mississippi University for Women maintains a minor in Geography with a few courses in regional studies. Southern Mississippi and Mississippi State continue to lead the state with the most varied and diverse course offerings. These offerings are still the same as previous reports from prior years have documented.

E. Jobs and Job Placement

Job placement has been great for both Mississippi State and Southern Mississippi as GIT/GIS has been a growing field of interests across industries. Placements have been active in public and private sector jobs, especially related to planning and natural resource management. Additionally Southern Mississippi has continued its success with training and placing employees at the NASA Stennis Space Center with specialties in remote sensing and GIS.

F. Faculty Searches

Mississippi State University will be looking for an additional instructor to teach introductory level courses in the coming year, and the University of Southern Mississippi will be considering adding another faculty member in the coming year. Other schools that teach geography courses either share faculty across fields like history or education or hire adjuncts to teach one or two courses for the institution.

G. State of Geography

Geography in the state of Mississippi is still viewed as valuable for its utility, especially in relation to land management, agriculture, and planning. There is a need to improve the visibility of the discipline as a holistic discipline and not only as a set of skills. The application of spatial understanding should be valued more than it is. Additionally, one way to help in this awareness is by providing better bridges to support geography at our HBCUs. SEDAAG and AAG could assist in this goal by providing more encouragement and publicity.

Mississippi also has its own annual Mississippi Geospatial Conference that brings together people in the state who share an interest in geography. The conference is now in its eleventh year with about 125 attendees present annually.

H. State of SEDAAG/AAG

SEDAAG maintains a place of esteem for those in the state who are aware of it. One stated that SEDAAG is appreciated for promoting and supporting the discipline through a manageable conference/membership. Another said, “SEDAAG is my favorite conference of the year,” and, “the only conference I will attend in 2023.” The conference is robust in content but also manageable in size. The meetings are usually held in convenient but nice sites that are reasonable. It has a rich history with stellar names in the discipline, and, “I will gladly serve on committees for SEDAAG as am currently doing.” Special sessions are also easy to manage and organize at SEDAAG, so they are a delight. SEDAAG meetings are like a family reunion, except we like these people. It’s great to sit and catch up with old friends and colleagues and share time together. It is also exciting to meet new members and talk with students about research in the field. SEDAAG is a great conference and a well-run organization.

AAG is not held as in high regard in Mississippi as SEDAAG. One respondent stated that AAG is far too expensive and lacks proper gateways to get students and recent graduates involved through less expensive options. Even when AAG was held nearby in New Orleans, there was not a commuter option for those who wanted to visit for a day or who could not afford to take multiple days away from work. AAG is too cumbersome and does not provide the best value (through membership fees) for what it is supposed to provide. One stated that they had not attended an AAG meeting in four years and that its handling of COVID policies was lax and disorganized. AAG is viewed as inefficient and lacking in rigor as every talk is accepted. Amenities at AAG conferences were not worth the value and communication from AAG is poor. AAG must improve if it wants to keep members.

**9. f. North Carolina SEDAAG Survey Summary: 2022-2023 Academic Year
2023 SEDAAG**

Submitted by Dr. Derek J. Martin Associate Professor at Appalachian State University

Institutional Information

Approximately 14 universities in North Carolina offer courses and/or degrees in geography or related fields. Four of these universities responded to the 2022-2023 SEDAAG Survey. The contacts and degree information for these four departments are summarized in the table below:

Table 1. Universities Responding to the 2022-2023 SEDAAG Survey

Institution	Department and Survey Contact	Degrees Offered
Appalachian State University	Department of Geography and Planning Dr. Saskia van de Gevel	B.A. in Geography B.S. in Geography, General B.S. in Geography w GIS Concentration B.S.in Community & Regional Planning Undergraduate GIS Certificate M.A. in Geography Conc. in General Geography Conc. in GIScience Conc. in Planning Conc. in Climate Change Graduate Certificate in GIScience Graduate Certificate in Planning Graduate Certificate in Climate Change
Western Carolina University	Department of Geosciences and Natural Resource Management Dr. Diane Styers	B.S. Geology Conc. In Env. Hydrology Conc. In Solid Earth Conc in Interdisciplinary Minor in Geography
University of North Carolina, Greensboro	Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability Dr. Dan Royall	B.A. in Geography B.S. in Geography B.A. in Environmental and Sustainability Studies M.A in Applied Geography M.S. in Sustainability and Environment Ph.D. in Geography Post-Baccalaureate Certificates Conservations Global Societies and Governance Sustainability Urban and Economic Development
North Carolina Central University	Department of Environment, Earth, and Geospatial Science Dr. Gordana Vlahovic	B.S. in Environmental, Earth, and Geographic Sciences B.S. in EEGS – Online Undergraduate Certificate in Geospatial Intelligence M.S. in Environmental, Earth, and Geospatial Sciences Graduate Certificate in Geospatial Intelligence

Trends in Student Enrollment in Geography Courses

Enrollment in undergraduate geography courses has *increased* at ASU and NCCU. ASU reports 20% increase in enrollment following inclusion of numerous courses in General Education requirements. Enrollment at UNCG is reported as *stable to slight growth*. Enrollment has also been reported as *stable* at WCU. Of the four schools reporting, none reported *declining* enrollment. Enrollment in graduate geography courses is *stable* at Appalachian State University, with occasional dips in enrollment, and is also reported as *stable* UNC Greensboro.

Trends in Geography Majors

The number of undergraduate geography majors is *increasing* at ASU and NCCU, and *stable* at UNCG. UNCW does not offer a Geography Major (Geography classes are now offered in Geology), however they have seen a 100% increase in Geography Minors. The number of students in graduate geography programs is *increasing* at NCCU, reporting a 100% growth in admission applications since the previous cycle, citing addition of an on-line mode of delivery for their MS program as the reason. The number of students in the MA program at ASU has remained *stable*, but reports an *increase* in their graduate GIS certificate program.

Trends in Course Offerings

The number of undergraduate course offerings has *increased* at ASU and NCCU. NCCU has added courses due to their offering of online degree programs, and the need for GIS programming, and data science courses. Course offerings are *stable* at UNCG and WCU. The number of graduate course offerings has remained *stable* at ASU and UNCG, and is *growing* at NCCU (for same reported reason as undergrad growth in course offerings). Across all schools, increases in course offerings seem to be related to demand for GIS courses.

Jobs for Geography Graduates

All departments, with the exception of WCU (reported NA for this question) have reported high levels of success with graduates finding jobs. Particularly, all have reported that graduates are finding jobs in GIS fields across the private/non-profit/local-state-federal government sectors. ASU reports that nearly 100% of graduates with a Planning focus find jobs within six months of graduation, citing a shortage of Planners in the state of NC as the reason. UNCG also reports success in the Urban Planning sector. Additionally ASU reports that MA graduates who do not go directly into the workforce are joining PhD programs, and UNCG reports success in PhD graduates finding faculty positions in academe.

Personnel Table 2. Personnel

University	Department Head	Full-Time Geography Faculty	Part-Time Geography Faculty	New Geography Faculty
Appalachian State University	Dr. Saskia van de Gevel	17	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christine Quattro, Ph.D. • 2 Upcoming hires
Western North Carolina University	Dr. Diane Styers	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Upcoming
University of North Carolina - Greensboro	Dr. Dan Royall	16	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
North Carolina Central University	Dr. Gordana Vlahovic	8	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theophraste Noussi, Ph.D. • 1 Upcoming

State of Geography

The State of Geography is generally viewed as positive and/or stable by those reporting, and cite GIS and tech-based course offerings as the reason for such stability and appreciation by their respective administrations, and by the state in general. ASU reports stable financial support by their college and alumni. However “vigilance” in warding off potential threats to the state of Geography in NC has been advised by UNCG. Each department’s complete response is quoted below:

Appalachian State University: “We will likely be facing a change in college structure. Our department is strong and collegial reputation across campus. We hope to navigate any college changes well and retain our space and financial resources. Our Department budget is \$60,000/ year, and that includes all education supplies and faculty travel. We have a food and toiletry pantry and create a semi-annual newsletter that promotes opportunities for people to donate to our Department. One emeritus faculty member made a \$70,000 donor pledge this past year and donated \$2,000 yearly for a first-generation scholarship..”

Western North Carolina University: “The department is able to maintain a course rotation of basic geography courses to fulfill minor requires that includes physical components support by the geology classes, spatial technology courses supported by natural resource management classes and human geography courses taught by the full time geography instructor.”

University of North Carolina, Greensboro: “I perceive geography to be in stable condition currently in the state; however, I believe programs should be highly vigilant regarding potential threats, like that imposed by our current state funding formula which will sharply reduce state allocations for graduate programs having “non-STEM” CIP codes and out-of-state graduate students.”

North Carolina Central University: “At NCCU there is a great appreciation for the field of geography, although it is skewed toward viewing geography as GIS and geospatial data science. The department has support from the college and upper administration, including the Provost and Chancellor, who share our success stories at the university and board meetings. This goodwill is partly due to a high level of external

funding that department faculty have secured in the last few years, totaling more than \$5M in external support: \$720,000 from the Department of Defense, \$1.4 from NASA, and \$3.3 M from NSF. For the first time, our department will advise doctoral students in the newly expanded Ph.D. program in Integrated Health and Sciences. Two students who graduated this summer from our MS program have already been accepted into the program.”

State of SEDAAG

Based on responses from three of the four institutions, SEDAAG is held in high regard. NCCU has reported improved perception of the organization following provision of free registration to their students, and active outreach toward minority serving institutions. Each department’s complete response is quoted below:

Appalachian State University: “SEDAAG is the best regional AAG conference and it does an outstanding job!”

Western North Carolina University: No Response

University of North Carolina, Greensboro: I still consider SEDAAG to be the best of the regional divisions. Great annual meeting, great people, great organization;

North Carolina Central University: “Faculty perception of SEDAAG has improved, especially after SEDAAG provided NCCU students with free registrations for the SEDAAG (2022 and 2023) and AAG (2023) conferences. We will be taking a number of students to Norfolk for a conference next month. The ability to work with MSIs and intentionality in reaching out to MSIs has been a big plus.”

**9. g. South Carolina SEDAAG Survey Summary: 2022-2023 Academic Year
2023 SEDAAG**

Submitted by Dr. Dean Hardy, University of South Carolina

A. Institutional Information

There are at least eight post-secondary institutions in South Carolina that offer courses and/or degrees in geography. Only five of these institutions responded to the 2022/23 SEDAAG Survey, but College of Charleston’s response had an issue and resulted in no data. The contacts and degree information for all contacted institutions during Fall 2023 is summarized in Table 1. I recommend no longer contacting USC Upstate as they have no degrees in geography. It is unclear where, if at all, the minor in geography resides at Winthrop after the 2022 disbanding of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies.

Table 1. Universities Contacted for the 2022-2023 SEDAAG Survey (degrees hyperlinked)

Institution	Department and Survey Contact	Geography Degrees Offered	Responded
University of South Carolina, Columbia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Geography Dr. Jerry Mitchell (MITCHEJT@mailbox.sc.edu) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> B.S. in Geography B.A. in Geography Minor in Geography Minor in Climate and Society Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT) Certificate M.S. in Geography M.A. in Geography Ph.D. in Geography (link to all grad degrees) 	Y
Francis Marion University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Political Science and Geography Dr. Scott S. Brown (ssbrown@fmarion.edu) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor in Geography 	Y
College of Charleston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Political Science Dr. Mark Long contacted (LongM@cofc.edu) Dr. Annette Watson minor Director (WatsonAM@cofc.edu) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor in Geography 	Y, but error, no data
Midlands Technical College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School of Social and Behavioral Sciences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associates in Arts Degree with a 	Y

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Brian Grabbatin (grabbatinb@midlandstech.edu) 	concentration in Geography	
Coastal Carolina University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Anthropology and Geography • Dr. Clayton Whitesides (cwhitesid@coastal.edu) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.A. in Anthropology and Geography with a concentration in Geography • Minor in GIS • Minor in Human-Environment Geography • Geospatial Technologies Certificate 	Y
Clemson University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of History and Geography • Christa Smith, William Terry (casmith@clemson.edu, terry2@clemson.edu) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geography Minor 	N
Winthrop University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Interdisciplinary Studies (disbanded Fall 2022) • Robin Lammi (lammir@winthrop.edu) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.A. Environmental Studies • B.S. Environmental Sciences • Minor in Geography 	N
University of South Carolina, Upstate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History, Political Science, Philosophy and American Studies • Dr. Trevor Rubenzor (trubenzor@uscupstate.edu) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No degree in Geography 	N

B. Geography Courses / Student Trends

1. Trends in Student Enrollment in Geography Courses

Three respondents stated that enrollment in **undergraduate** geography courses is *stable* at their institutions (USC Columbia, Francis Marion, and Midlands Tech) while Coastal Carolina said it is *increasing* due to other majors including geography courses are requirements or electives. 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. Several said enrollment demand is higher in GIS and physical geography courses.

2. Trends in Geography Majors

The number of **undergraduate** geography majors is *stable* at USC Columbia with competing majors in Global Studies and Environmental Studies, stating “In the past three years, we have graduated 59 BA/BS, 12 MA/MS, and 6 PhD.”. AA geography concentration students at Midlands Tech is up from 6 to 16 over past year with new pipeline to USC geography program. Coastal Carolina reports the number of majors is slowly, but steadily *increasing*, with consistent commitment from students once declared (i.e., no major changes out of major).

3. Trends in Course Offerings

USC Columbia’s reports offering more political ecology and GIScience courses and a streamlining of the latter with two new faculty. At Coastal Carolina, course offerings are *increasing* due to high demand for general education courses, but also demand from other programs for more GIS courses. At Coastal Carolina, more demand for GIS courses. Midlands Tech has added higher level regional courses. Francis Marion reports stable core courses but hit or miss with high level courses. Midlands reports adding Geography of North America as new course and international travel in Study Abroad program to Barcelona and recruiting for Costa Rica.

4. Jobs for Geography Graduates

USC Columbia reports graduates go into “government (planning; environment; GIS); NGO (human rights; energy); private (GIS; remote sensing)”. Francis Marion reports “Law school, urban planning, GIS” while Midlands Tech reports that many students go on to four-year colleges entering into degree programs such as “Geography, Environmental Studies, International Studies, Environmental Science, and related disciplines”. Coastal Carolina reports local government, private industry, NGOs, and grad school.

C. Personnel

USC Columbia reports 22 fulltime faculty with 1 instructor. Coastal Carolina reports 6 fulltime and 1 part-time faculty. Francis Marion reports 2 fulltime and 1 parttime faculty. Midlands Tech reports 1 fulltime and 1 part-time faculty. Coastal Carolina University shows 6 fulltime geography-affiliated faculty and 1 part-time .

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

Francis Marion: “Regional geography appears to be declining in popularity.”

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: the department is viewed favorably, but is not resourced with faculty lines or administrative support that could grow the department. A separate environmental department dilutes our strength and diverts resources. We have been approved to hire a new campus GIS coordinator.”

Coastal Carolina: “Geography is doing well at Coastal. Partnerships with other disciplines on campus have resulted in improved programming and opportunities for students. GIS lab space has been secured through an external donor and demand for those classes and skill are high. There are always budgeting issues that limit hiring and other needs, and mild turf wars are present with other departments and colleges, but the state of geography at Coastal is very positive and has a promising outlook.”

E. State of SEDAAG

Overall, from responses the general sense is that SEDAAG needs to entice junior and/or community college level instructors to join SEDAAG through making benefits clearer. The timing of the event as an impediment to attendance was also mentioned and anecdotally has been mentioned to me by several faculty over the past year.

**9. h. Tennessee SEDAAG Survey Summary: 2022-2023 Academic Year
2023 SEDAAG
Submitted by Craig R. Laing, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga**

A. Institutional Information

Approximately 9 universities in Tennessee offer courses and/or degrees in geography or related fields. Four of these universities responded to the 2023 SEDAAG Survey. The contacts and degree information for these four departments are summarized in the table below:

Table 1. Universities Responding to the 2023 SEDAAG Survey

Institution	Department and Survey Contact	Geography Degrees Offered
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social, Cultural, and Justice Studies • Dr. Craig R. Laing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor in Geography
University of Tennessee at Martin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural, Geosciences, and Natural Resources • Dr. Wes Totten 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No geography degree or minor
University of Memphis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earth Sciences • Dr. Arleen A. Hill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.A. in Earth Sciences • M.A. in Earth Sciences • M.S. in Earth Sciences • Ph.D. in Earth Sciences • Minor in Earth Sciences • Graduate Certificate in GIS
Tennessee Technological University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earth Sciences • Dr. Evan Hart 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.S. in Geosciences, Environmental Geology Concentration • B.S. in Geosciences, Geology Concentration • B.S. in Geosciences, Geography Concentration • B.S. in Geosciences, GIS Concentration • Minor in Geography • Minor in Geology

B. Trends in Student Enrollment in Geography Courses

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga: Enrollment in geography courses is **growing** and now exceeds pre-pandemic levels. Currently, we are seeing about 400 students enrolled in geography courses in fall semesters and about 300 in spring semesters.

University of Tennessee at Martin: Undergraduate geography courses have **stable** enrollment because they are a part of the general education courses. No graduate courses in geography are offered.

University of Memphis: The trend [in enrollment] is **increasing** but still below pre-pandemic levels. Enrollment is down on campus as a whole.

Tennessee Technological University: Enrollment in our Human Geog and Natural Hazards Gen ed undergraduate courses is **steady**, with enrollments around 100 each.

C. Trends in Geography Majors

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga: We do not have a geography major, but, we have about a dozen minors that is **slowly growing**.

University of Tennessee at Martin: We do not have a geography concentration any longer. Rebranded geography as geosystems with earth science and GIS options. Current enrollment = 2 students.

University of Memphis: **Stable** at undergraduate level; returning to pre-pandemic [levels] at graduate level.

Tennessee Technological University: We currently have 3 geography concentration students in the Geosciences degree. The trend has **increased** from 2 to 3 over the last year. We also have approx. 10 students in our Professional Science Masters in Geoinformatics degree, which has a GIS and Remote Sensing focus. This is **growing** and popular degree.

D. Trends in Course Offerings

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga: Every semester we offer about 8 different geography courses (some with multiple sections) and that has been **stable** over the last few years. We offer three general education courses (world and intro to physical and human). With the recent hire of a lecturer in physical geography, we are now offering upper-division courses in physical geography in addition to the upper-division courses in human geography already taught.

University of Tennessee at Martin: The current course offerings are **stable** because they are a part of the general education curriculum.

University of Memphis: No change/**stable**.

Tennessee Technological University: No response to this question.

E. Jobs for Geography Graduates

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga: As we only have a minor, we do not have geography graduates.

University of Tennessee at Martin: We no longer produce graduates with a geography concentration.

University of Memphis: Academic, state and federal government, and private sector. GIS skills are in demand.

Tennessee Technological University: Most are working in GIS and environmental consulting.

F. Personnel

**Table 2.
Personnel**

University	Department Head	Full-Time Geography Faculty	Part-Time Geography Faculty	New Geography Faculty
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga	Dr. Zibin Guo Zibin-Guo@utc.edu	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Joshua Hodge, Lecturer
University of Tennessee at Martin	Dr. Wes Totten ftotten@utm.edu	1	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new faculty
University of Memphis	Dr. Arleen Hill aahill@memphis.edu	7	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new faculty • Asst. Professor of Teaching search for Jan. 2024
Tennessee Technological University	Dr. Jeanette Luna jluna@tntech.edu	1.5	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new faculty

G. State of Geography

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga: For the last five years, geography has been part of the Social, Cultural, and Justice Studies department, but, prior to this, geography was part of the Sociology, Anthropology, and Geography department. As geographers, we were concerned when the name geography was removed from our department name. This was significant because

geography is only a minor and this was a blow to our presence on campus. However, recent conservations suggest our department may split into two departments, a Criminal Justice Department and another department that returns to the previous name of Sociology, Anthropology, and Geography. As stated above, our enrollments are up and have recently added a lecturer in physical geography. One of our biggest challenges is travel budget limitations to professional conferences.

University of Tennessee at Martin: We no longer have a geography concentration. We offer three geography courses as a part of our general education curriculum. These courses are world regional geography based.

University of Memphis: State of geography is strong in terms of research, collaborations, community engagement. As resources on campus are limited, we struggle to secure investments – specifically in terms of space and staff. Software support is a continuous challenge that has intensified this year.

Tennessee Technological University: We do not offer a degree in geography, only a concentration. It is not very popular and does not lead to jobs very readily. However, our PSM Geoinformatics degree is very popular among those in the workforce who can take many of the courses remotely and finish the degree in one year.

H. State of SEDAAG

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga: We have one faculty member that has been an active participant in SEDAAG for 30 years. SEDAAG, and its high-quality annual meeting, is a highlight of this faculty members calendar year. Our new faculty member is actively engaged in the World Geography Bowl this year and looks forward to further participation over the coming years.

University of Tennessee at Martin: No comments or suggestions.

University of Memphis: We seek to increase our participation in SEDAAG, several of our faculty have long ties to SEDAAG, we struggle to attend the annual meeting due to timing (same days as local GIS conference) and distance.

Tennessee Technological University: We have not participated in SEDAAG in many years.

**9. i. Virginia SEDAAG Survey Summary: 2023-2024 Academic Year
2023 SEDAAG**

Submitted by Dr. Jennifer L. Whytlaw, Assistant Professor at Old Dominion University

A. Institutional Information

Approximately 11 universities in Virginia offer courses and/or degrees in geography or related fields. Six of these universities responded to the 2023 SEDAAG Survey. The contacts and degree information for the seven departments are summarized in the table below:

Table 1. Universities Responding to the 2023 SEDAAG Survey

Institution	Department and Survey Contact	Geography Degrees Offered	Contact Email
Emory and Henry College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Geography & Environmental Sciences • Dr. Edward H Davis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.S. in Geography • B.A. in Geography • 	ehdavis@ehc.edu
James Madison University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School of Integrated Sciences • Dr. Henry Way 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.S. in Geography • B.S. in Geography • USGIF Certificate • 	wayha@jmu.edu
Longwood University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological & Environmental Sciences • Dr. Kathy Gee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Geography Degree 	geekd@longwood.edu
University of Mary Washington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Geography • Dr. Melina Patterson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.S. in Geography • B.A. in Geography • Undergraduate Certificate in GIS • M.S. in GIS 	mpatters@umw.edu
Old Dominion University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Political Science & Geography • Dr. Jonathan Leib 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.S. in Geography • B.A. in Geography • Undergraduate Certificate in GIS • Graduate Certificate in GIS 	jleib@odu.edu
Virginia Tech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Geography 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.S. in Meteorology • B.A. in Geography • M.S. in Geography 	tomc3@vt.edu

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Tom Crawford 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ph.D. in Geospatial and Environmental Analysis 	
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B. Trends in Student Enrollment in Geography Courses

Enrollment in **undergraduate** geography courses is *stable* at Emory & Henry College but they have been offering fewer courses since 2018 when they lost a faculty position. At James Madison University the undergraduate enrollment is *stable, to mildly growing*. Longwood University does not offer an undergraduate degree, but they have been offering geography courses to satisfy requirements in several majors/programs: environmental science, elementary education, GIS and Earth Science minors, and the University’s general education program. Geography courses focusing on regional, cultural, and historical geography have steadily declined in enrollment over the past 10 years. However, when these courses are put into the University’s general education program, enrollment immediately increases significantly. Student enrollment in GIS-based geography classes has seen a very modest increase in the past 10 years. Physical geography courses have seen steady enrollment. The University of Mary Washington indicated a *downward trend* in overall enrollment. They are closing their MA program due to the loss of a faculty position. Undergraduate and graduate enrollment at Old Dominion University is *stable*. Enrollment in **undergraduate** geography courses is *growing* at Virginia Tech University and is *stable* at the **graduate** level.

C. Trends in Geography Majors

The number of **undergraduate** geography majors is *declining* at Emory and Henry College and Longwood University. The number of Geography majors is *increasing* at Virginia Tech. At the University of Mary Washington, majors overall are *declining*. They also indicated: “However, we have recently developed a new major in Geospatial Analysis, and it seems popular. We are hoping that we will gain new majors and that it won't just shift students from Geography to Geospatial Analysis.” James Madison University and Old Dominion University indicated geography majors were *stable, to modestly growing*.

D. Trends in Course Offerings

Emory and Henry College course offerings are in *decline* because they only have 1 full-time faculty member currently. Longwood University indicated the following: “Geography courses focusing on regional, cultural, and historical geography have steadily declined in enrollment over the past 10 years. However, when these courses are put into the University’s general education program, enrollment immediately increases significantly. Student enrollment in GIS-based geography classes has seen a *very modest increase* in the past 10 years. Physical geography courses have seen steady enrollment.” James Madison University majors are *stable, to mildly growing*. At the University of Mary Washington, they have indicated the following: “We have offered fewer sections of geography courses but continue to offer a wide range of classes. We have added some new classes related to development and global health, but we continue to have a strong roster of methods and techniques classes, physical geography, and cultural and political geography classes. We have classes that fulfill most gen eds (not art or literature and as of next year, no quantitative reasoning) and many of our classes are electives in other interdisciplinary programs, including urban studies, American studies, climate science, social justice, and others.” Old Dominion University stated that: “The trend in course offerings is that we stopped offering regional courses. The general education requirements courses are most reliable in terms of attracting students. We have relatively new exclusively graduate level courses that were added in the last couple years to support other degree programs (e.g., data science) -- these would rarely fill if not for leniency provided due to the external degree program requiring them. Other classes are cross-listed graduate / undergraduate and

potentially but not always embedded in other degree programs (e.g., MA in Humanities / BA in International Studies), which drops the enrollment required and helps to fill them.” And at Virginia Tech, “No real trends other than addition of new course(s) on occasion when we make a new hire and need to add courses in that specialty area.”

E. Jobs for Geography Graduates

All departments reported that graduates are finding jobs in GIS and geography related fields except for Longwood University that did not report on this item. Emory and Henry College reported that majors found jobs in GIS, conservation, and teaching. For James Madison University a significant number go into local government, Northern Virginia/DC area government contractor positions; non-profit work; around 60% of our graduates go into positions that use their geospatial technology. Few go on to graduate school at present, but that is perhaps more due to the robust job market. At the University of Mary Washington those with GIS skills work for various government agencies, contractors, and private companies; others are working in the greater DC-VA region in the non-profit sector, or again for local or government, or become planners or educators. A good number attend graduate school.

F. Personnel

Table 2. Personnel

University	Department Head	Full-Time Geography Faculty	Part-Time Geography Faculty	New Geography Faculty
Emory and Henry College	Dr. Edward Davis	1	2	• None
James Madison University	Dr. Henry Way	9	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Nadine Plachta • Dr. Weiming Hu • Hiring 1 position in physical geography.
Longwood University	Dr. Mary Lehman	2	0	• None
University of Mary Washington	Dr. Melina Patterson	9	5	• None
Old Dominion University	Dr. Jonathan Leib	8	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Tom Stieve is a new lecturer within our dept. • Hiring 1 tenure track Assistant Professor this year.
Virginia Tech	Dr. Tom Crawford	19	1	• Hiring 1-2 tenure track faculty this year.

G. State of Geography

The State of Geography in Virginia is varied across each of the departments and schools. **Each department's complete response is quoted below:**

Emory and Henry College: "I am sorry to say that the major in geography is not likely to continue, although a minor seems quite possible. Our small college has been trending away from traditional liberal arts faculty positions as they expand faculty positions in more professional programs like business and health sciences, in response to a growth in demand for those majors."

James Madison University: "The state of Geography at JMU is good: our student numbers have been stable and, in some years, increasing in the past decade, tracking enrollment growth generally at the university. The program is reasonably well recognized across campus, but probably could do with a stronger sense of the potential value and contributions our faculty and students could make to the academic environment here. Our geospatial technology offerings are notably popular and strong, and students can most clearly see the career-oriented pathway with those tracks. We need to find a better way of capturing the opportunities for those in the human and physical spaces to see the (job oriented) benefits of study in those areas. Our technical, computing, and lab resources are strong, especially for an undergraduate program. There is a growing discussion around faculty research and scholarship expectations in the context of a wider university elevation to the "R2" classification."

Longwood University: "At Longwood University, there is a strong commitment to supporting exceptional geography research and education. We have access to a geographic information systems lab, contemporary remote sensing equipment, and faculty who are passionate about their work. Our students and faculty have collaborated with the Town of Farmville and community members on projects related to land use planning and disaster management, providing our students with hands-on training that directly translates into tangible outcomes. One challenge we currently face is low student enrollment in our geography minor. Increased funding to facilitate the purchase of specialized computers and proprietary modelling software that can process vast amounts of spatial data would directly benefit our students and act as a catalyst to meaningful research."

University of Mary Washington: "In general, UMW supports Geography. While we were disappointed that we did not get a replacement hire to maintain our MA program in GIS, we expect our undergraduate program to be stronger when the faculty who have supported the MA program are fully dedicated to undergraduates. So far faculty and students support our new undergraduate curriculum. We have good relationships with most departments on campus, only one intro GIS course is taught in a different department and several majors accept our GIS classes as elective methods classes in their programs. Many undergrads from across the spectrum take our GIS certificate and we hope to increase awareness of the certificate program in the coming years."

Old Dominion University: "We were fortunate to receive funding from the University for equipment for a Drone Lab last AY. We struggle and have struggled for years to get the University to commit enough IT resources to support our GIS Lab and the development of a master's degree that has been in the works for 7 years. We struggle to offer competitive salaries to potential new hires. We attend all available recruiting opportunities for transfer students, freshmen students, and community members to improve enrollments. We added 3 new undergraduate certificates this year in Urban Planning, Emergency Management, and Environmental Studies to attract and help students explain what their degree in geography can do. We also converted two undergraduate concentrations to majors (Urban, Emergency, and Hazards Mgt. and Environmental Resources). This was not intentional -- our state accrediting agency made this change. We will be working to separate the Urban and Emergency Management into two majors over the next two years. We are in the process of a CIP code change to Geography and Environmental Science to garner a

STEM designation. We expect this change to be approved this AY. We are reducing the number of hours in our GIS graduate certificate to 15 from 18 to be more competitive with other programs. We hope to complete this process this AY.”

Virginia Tech: “Virginia Tech Geography is healthy with approaching 300 undergraduate majors. Our faculty are publishing at a good rate we have multiple active NSF awards. We are working to change our CIP code for the MS Geography to be 30.4401 Geography and Environmental Studies. Our state higher education office is causing problems due to their requirement that 50% of the 32 credits be in a common core. It is virtually unheard of that a graduate geography program have 50% of credits in common for all students. We are trying to get a waiver on this. We simply want to change our six-digit CIP code. Our higher education office makes it into a big debacle.”

H. State of SEDAAG

The state of SEDAAG was favorable across all responses. **Each department’s complete response is quoted below:**

Emory and Henry College: “I have always enjoyed the SEDAAG meetings and the Southeastern Geographer journal. I am proud to be in the best regional division of the AAG.”

James Madison University: “This year will be the first year for a while that I’ve been to a SEDAAG meeting, so I’m looking forward to learning more in November! I would like to explore more opportunities for our undergraduates to participate in SEDAAG events such as the conference.”

Longwood University: None provided.

University of Mary Washington: “We will have both faculty and students attending the annual meeting in 2023, and we are looking forward to reestablishing our dominance in the Geography Bowl. (Actually, we probably won’t be able to have a full team because travel support has not returned to pre-pandemic levels and we can’t afford to send enough undergraduates. This really makes me sad.)”

Old Dominion University: “The State of SEDAAG is fine.”

Virginia Tech: “I am pleased with the State of SEDAAG.”

9. j. West Virginia SEDAAG Survey Summary: 2023-2024 Academic Year
2023 SEDAAG
Submitted by Dr. Thomas Saladyga, Professor at Concord University

A. Institutional Information

Seven universities in West Virginia offer coursework and/or degrees in geography or related fields. Four of these universities responded to the 2023 SEDAAG Survey. The contacts and degree information for these departments are summarized in the table below:

Table 1. Universities Responding to the 2022-2023 SEDAAG Survey

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

In addition to these four institutions with geography faculty and majors, the Department of Land Resources at Glennville State University offers an online GIS certificate, Fairmont State University offers a minor in Geographic Information Science, and Shepherd University offers geography coursework that supports the majors in Global Studies and Environmental Studies.

B. Trends in Student Enrollment in Geography Courses

Enrollment in **undergraduate** geography courses is *stable* at Concord University, West Liberty University, and Marshall University and *declining* but beginning to stabilize at West Virginia University. Enrollment in **graduate** geography courses is *stable* at Marshall University and West Virginia University.

C. Trends in Geography Majors

The number of **undergraduate** Geography majors is *declining* at Marshall University (slightly) and at West Virginia University. At West Liberty University, the number of Geography majors is stable but less than pre-COVID. The number of Environmental Geosciences majors at Concord University is *stable*, but low. 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, West Liberty University, and Marshall University. At West Virginia University, course offerings are reduced due to a decrease in the number of faculty—graduate courses and physical geography courses have been hit hardest.

E. Jobs for Geography Graduates

All departments reported that graduates are finding jobs in GIS, planning, and related fields. Graduates at each university also find jobs in the public sector, consulting firms, non-profits, and some 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 (6)	0	• One new faculty (Jan. 2024 start)
West Liberty University	Dr. Aaron Harper	Geography (2)	1	• NA
West Virginia University	Dr. Brent McCusker	Geography (11) Sustainability (2) Geology (8)	0	• Two new Sustainability faculty (Aug. 2023 start)

G. State of Geography

The State of Geography in West Virginia is varied. Marshall University has hired one new faculty member and has expanded course offerings to support the new School of Aviation. At West Liberty University the program is stable overall. Concord University has proposed a new GIS “user” certificate and revisions to the major in Environmental Geosciences will be implemented in 2024. At West Virginia University, the Department of Geology and Geography has undergone significant structural changes and the University as a whole has financial troubles. **Each department’s response is quoted below:**

West Liberty University: “Not much has changed at WLU in regards to geography. We continue to serve our small group of majors, in addition to teacher education programs and the general studies curriculum. The two full time faculty members remain productive with presentations and publications. Dr Robert Kruse has recently been named the McMillan Endowed Chair, which facilitates his student-centered research projects, while Professor Aron Massey served last year as an Appalachian Teaching Fellow through the ARC.”

Marshall University: “We received permission to hire a new faculty line. Our demand for courses from our new School of Aviation means we have to offer more sections of meteorology and Aviation Meteorology. We also needed someone to teach remote sensing. We have been filling those roles with adjuncts.”

Concord University: “The Environmental Geosciences degree program will be doing away with GEOG and GEOL course prefixes and will settle on GEO beginning in fall 2024. This will complete the merger between the two disciplines that was initiated in 2020. Additional revisions to the program are in the works and program faculty will be devoting increased energy to recruitment through various campus initiatives. A new GIS “user” certificate will likely be available for undergraduates in fall 2024.”

West Virginia University: “The State of Geography at WVU reflects the general situation at WVU. As a result of academic transformation, a decision was made a couple years ago to sunset existing degrees in geography, environmental geoscience, and geology, and start new degrees in Sustainability Studies (BA) and Earth and Environmental Science (BS). This has formally occurred, and no new students are admitted into the old degrees effective fall 2023. We will transition from the Department of Geology and Geography to a School of Sustainability (or similar—the name is to be determined, and the timeline keeps getting pushed back).

A new budget model with major changes will be implemented in 2024-25. Details are forthcoming but there is concern that the changes will not be favorable. The model will possibly increase the size of department budgets, but charge departments for things that had previously been centrally charged, like building space, custodial services, and OSP services.

The dynamic created by layoffs and program closures has been traumatic all around, with several collaborating programs in Eberly and (especially) Davis Colleges being hard hit. There is severe concern that this is just the first round of many, and so faculty in non-RIF programs are nonetheless often looking for outside employment because it is an insecure work environment. For example, we had a geology professor leave over summer 2023 because he wanted a more secure research-oriented position and feared that a position at WVU was not as secure and could be forcibly transitioned to cover more teaching.”

H. State of SEDAAG

Each department's response is quoted below:

West Liberty University: “We still believe SEDAAG to be the best of the regional divisions. The annual meeting is the most academically rigorous and the Southeastern Geographer is an asset to our region and the field overall. Being the most-northernly of all SEDAAG institutions, it can be difficult and costly to attend the annual meeting, especially if we are planning on also attending AAG, Appalachian Studies, or other academic conferences, but we look forward to continued participation going forward.”

Marshall University: “Seems healthy. Good journal.”

Concord University: “The annual meeting is a great venue for undergraduate and graduate students and the journal continues to provide a quality, reliable outlet for regional research. Concord undergraduates will participate in the conference again this year.”

West Virginia University: “The SEDAAG annual meeting is consistently strong. In the past year, to be honest, my focus has had to be more on WVU so I do not have much to say about the State of SEDAAG.”

10. Vice President and Program Chair Report
2023 SEDAAG
Submitted by Dr. Amy Potter, Georgia Southern University

Paper Sessions: 25 (including organized)

- 138 paper submissions
Organized Paper Sessions: 7 (including Honors)

Panel Sessions: 4

Poster Sessions: 3 (Honors, Undergraduate/Honors, General)

- General Poster Submissions: 31
- Graduate Poster Submissions: 23
- Undergraduate and Undergraduate Honors Competition Posters: 37

Changes:

- Google Forms for submission process this year
- Google Forms to report program mistakes

Recommendations:

- Put in SEDAAG instructions one paper or poster presentation submission per person (not including panels)
- Consider moving submission deadline up a week
- Establish timeline for program due dates with all relevant parties

Atlanta Meeting:

Paper sessions:26

Paper submissions: 144

Panel Sessions: 5

Poster Sessions:4.5 (UG and Grad Session posters in same session)

Grad Honors Posters: 4

UG Honors Posters:31

Regular program posters: 49

Total Posters: 84

11. Treasurer's Report
2023 SEDAAG
Submitted by Dr. Paul McDaniel, Kennesaw State University

Financial Summary

As of November 13, 2023, the total assets of SEDAAG are \$187,466.58, an increase from \$143,405.72 at the end of the organization's last fiscal year on November 30, 2022. The current total assets remain below what they were two years ago on November 30, 2021 (\$203,760.29), but are higher than what they were three years ago on November 30, 2020 (\$177,712.93). Of these assets, \$55,353.56 is considered Reserve Funds and \$25,400 represents the Scholarship Fund (Executive Committee Direction at 2012 Annual Meeting). However, the above figures do not include upcoming expenses associated with the balance due for the 2023 Annual Meeting in Norfolk (estimates discussed further below).

- Appendices I and II provide itemized details on all assets and transactions from December 1, 2022, for both the checking account and the money market account (the organization's fiscal year runs from December 1 to November 30 each year).
- Appendix III provides a visual summary of revenue compared to expenses for the past several organization fiscal years and a comparison of revenue and expenses for the past several annual meetings.
- Note: As of November 13, 2023, the current total assets above do not yet reflect upcoming expenses related to the balance due for the 2023 Norfolk Annual Meeting (estimated to be at least \$32,232.94 as of November 13).
- Note: In February 2022, SEDAAG'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. After the 2023 meeting when the new President and Treasurer begin their terms, they will need to be added to SEDAAG's account with Truist Bank, and Bill Graves and Paul McDaniel will need to be removed from the account.

Revenues

As of November 13, 2023, total revenues since December 1, 2022 were \$68,890.30, an increase from \$42,393.94 total revenues in the previous fiscal year. This revenue total includes membership dues, 2022 conference registration revenue, 2023 conference sponsorships already received, *Southeastern Geographer* journal surplus/royalties, AAG's contributions to SEDAAG, and interest earnings. Revenue includes membership dues processed through the *Southeastern Geographer* journal publisher (\$6,420), and fiscal year surplus/royalties for *Southeastern Geographer* from UNC Press (\$15,784.05). The 2022 SEDAAG annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, resulted in registration revenue of \$33,025, which AAG paid to SEDAAG in December. AAG contributed \$2,500 as a 2022 Regional Division Program Subsidy, \$1,000 for AAG support of World Geography Bowl, \$1,150 as an AAG region award for student registration support, a \$2,500 stipend for a SEDAAG Community Outreach Fellow, and an AAG \$1,500 region support fee. Not reflected above, as of November 7, 2023, registration fee revenue from the upcoming 2023 Norfolk annual conference is \$29,225, which SEDAAG will receive from AAG, who processes the conference registrations, in the upcoming fiscal year after the conclusion of the conference.

Expenditures

As of November 13, 2023, total expenditures since December 1, 2022, were \$24,829.44, a decrease from \$102,748.51 total expenditures in the previous fiscal year. The most significant expenditures to date were a final balance of \$4,481.05 due to the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center for the SEDAAG 2022 annual meeting in Atlanta; \$4,550 for SEDAAG World Geography Bowl at AAG team members; \$3,000 for six 2023 SEDAAG \$500 mini grants; and \$2,000 for SEDAAG awards from the 2022 annual meeting. This figure also includes pending expenses as of the writing of this report, including two \$500 2024 SEDAAG Mini Grants, a reimbursement to the SEDAAG Secretary for the cost of the Constant Contact email system (\$162), a reimbursement to the SEDAAG President for the cost of awards plaques for the 2023 annual meeting (\$271.62), and a \$9,000 stipend to the editors of *Southeastern Geographer* (the stipend is actually \$10,000, but as agreed \$1,000 was withheld by SEDAAG to cover the cost of the *Southeastern Geographer* reception at the annual meeting). Additionally, the SEDAAG 2023 Annual Meeting in Norfolk will have upcoming expenses that are not yet reflected in the above expenditures figure. As of November 13, SEDAAG had not yet received an invoice for a balance due for the 2023 Norfolk meeting. However, estimates for the costs of the 2023 Norfolk meeting include the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel Tech Contract, the Sheraton Hotel Meal and Beverage minimum of \$16,000, for a 2023 Annual Meeting total estimated expenses of \$32,232.94 (estimated balance due as of November 13, but may change somewhat by the time we receive the final invoice). Other upcoming expenditures include 2023 annual meeting awards/World Geography Bowl winners, etc. The SEDAAG annual budget also supports Status of Women in Geography breakfast, *Southeastern Geographer* reception, and the SAGE lunch held at the Annual Meeting.

A Financial Note About the 2022 Annual Meeting in Atlanta

As the 2022 Treasurer's Report was prepared ahead of the 2022 annual meeting, this is a follow-up note about the 2022 SEDAAG meeting in Atlanta regarding the total cost of that meeting, which was \$90,138.11. This figure includes a deposit of \$12,500 paid in 2021, \$70,141.43 balance due to Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center at the start of the conference, \$2,918.52 paid to Cherry Convention Services for poster session equipment at the start of the conference, a final balance of \$4,481.05 paid to Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center after the conference, and several small reimbursements for out-of-pocket expenses (all payments are reflected in Appendix I). Revenue from the 2022 Atlanta conference registrations that SEDAAG brought in was \$33,025. ESRI provided their usual \$500 sponsorship and AAG provided their usual \$1,500 annual region support.

The total cost of the 2022 Atlanta meeting was significantly higher than budgeted due to the structure of the contract with the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center. The contract was negotiated during the height of the COVID pandemic and the per person cost structure was selected to protect SEDAAG in the event of low conference attendance. The structure of the contract was quite different than SEDAAG's normal annual meeting contracts due to concerns created by COVID uncertainties. The SEDAAG Steering Committee approved the contract in 2021. The contract was based on projected attendance of 200 for an estimated cost of \$49,972.40. As the meeting attendance grew to well over 300 attendees, the costs of the meeting increased significantly. The steering committee will need to have discussions and carefully vet and review future potential contracts, including screening from meeting planners at AAG. For comparison, the total cost of the 2021 SEDAAG meeting in Florence, Alabama, which was based on a contract that was negotiated before the COVID pandemic, was \$26,574.76 (this includes a \$6,000 deposit to the Marriott Shoals Hotel and Conference Center, a \$17,632.76 balance due to the venue after the meeting, and the costs of awards, plaques, and reimbursements). Revenue from the 2021 Florence conference registrations that SEDAAG brought in was \$21,103.03 (\$19,315 from the registrations processed by AAG and \$1,288.03 from UNA, plus a \$500 sponsorship from ESRI).

SEDAAG Membership

As of November 1, 2023 (date of the most recent membership report from UNC Press), SEDAAG membership has remained steady (277 members) from the membership numbers reported in the previous year (277) in 2022, and is still higher than 2020 membership (160). Non- student membership increased from 137 to 151, while student membership decreased from 140 to 126 members. Although membership has certainly rebounded since 2020, considering the size of the SEDAAG region and the scope of different geography programs throughout the region, and compared to membership numbers of the previous decade, our membership numbers are still concerning and warrant **ongoing discussion and planning to continue to grow student and non-student membership numbers.** Appendices IV, V, and VI provide details on total, non-student, and student membership trends, respectively, from 2010 to 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul N. McDaniel, PhD
Treasurer, SEDAAG, 2022-2023
Associate Professor of Geography
Kennesaw State University

Appendix I: Checking Account

Date	Description	To/From	Note	Deposit	Withdrawal	Balance
Note: November 1-30, 2022, included here for reference (these dates were not included in the 2022 Treasurer's report, which was prepared in early November 2022 in advance of the SEDAAG 2022 conference in Atlanta).						
1-Nov-22	Mobile Deposit	UNC Press	July-Sept 2022 Dues	\$ 700.00		\$44,014.26
16-Nov-22	Mobile App Transfer from Money Market Account	Transfer from Money Market Account	Transfer from Money Market account to Checking account to cover costs of 2022 SEDAAG Conference	\$30,000.00		
17-Nov-22	Mobile App Transfer from Money Market Account	Transfer from Money Market Account	Transfer from Money Market account to Checking account to cover costs of 2022 SEDAAG Conference	\$10,000.00		
18-Nov-22	Check # 7021076	Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center	SEDAAG 2022 Conference balance due at start of conference (certified check from Truist Bank hand-delivered by P. McDaniel to Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center)		(70,151.43)	
23-Nov-22	Mobile App Transfer from Money Market Account	Transfer from Money Market Account	Transfer from Money Market account to Checking account to cover costs of 2022 SEDAAG Conference	\$10,000.00		
28-Nov-22	Check # 5009	Cherry Convention Services	SEDAAG 2022 Conference expense to vendor of Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center for supply, set up, and tear down, of meeting boards for poster sessions (these were not provided by the conference venue)		(2,918.52)	
Note: SEDAAG's nonprofit organization official IRS fiscal year runs from December 1 to November 30 each year.						
1-Dec-22	Balance					\$20,944.31
5-Dec-22	Check # 5010	Dr. Dawn Drake	Reimbursement for World Geography Bowl Plaques		(213.05)	
9-Dec-22	Check # 5011	Mashoukur Rahama	SEDAAG 2022 Masters Paper Award		(500.00)	
12-Dec-22	Mobile Deposit	AAG	2022 Regional Division Program Subsidy	\$ 2,500.00		
12-Dec-22	Counter Deposit	AAG	2022 SEDAAG Conference Revenue	\$33,025.00		
14-Dec-22	Check # 5016	Dr. John Taylor Shelton (Georgia State University)	SEDAAG 2022 Meeting Expense Reimbursement		(87.11)	
15-Dec-22	Check # 5013	Cooper Corey	SEDAAG 2022 Grad Poster Award		(250.00)	
19-Dec-22	Check # 5012	Ella Hunter	SEDAAG 2022 Undergrad Paper Award		(250.00)	
30-Dec-22	Balance					\$55,169.15

Date	Description	To/From	Note	Deposit	Withdrawal	Balance
20-Jan-23	Check # 5015	Sarah Jackson	SEDAAG 2022 PhD Paper Award		(1,000.00)	
31-Jan-23	Balance					\$54,169.15
6-Feb-23	Check # 5017	Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center	SEDAAG 2022 Conference Final Balance Due		(4,481.05)	
15-Feb-23	Mobile Deposit	Dr. William Graves	Donation to cover one additional SEDAAG Mini Grant in 2023	\$ 500.00		
15-Feb-23	Mobile Deposit	UNC Press	SEDAAG Member Dues October to December 2022	\$ 1,950.00		
28-Feb-23	Balance					\$52,138.10
2-Mar-23	Check # 5020	Robert Gudea	2023 SEDAAG Mini Grant		(500.00)	
7-Mar-23	Check # 5019	Reagan Yessler	2023 SEDAAG Mini Grant		(500.00)	
29-Mar-23	Check # 5023	John Swab	2023 SEDAAG Mini Grant		(500.00)	
31-Mar-23	Balance					\$50,638.10
5-Apr-23	Mobile Deposit	Dr. Dawn Drake	Reimbursement to SEDAAG	\$ 50.00		
12-Apr-23	Mobile Deposit	AAG	World Geography Bowl 2023	\$ 1,000.00		
13-Apr-23	Check # 5022	Tonderai Mushipe	2023 SEDAAG Mini Grant		(500.00)	
13-Apr-23	Check # 5029	Ricky Munoz	SEDAAG Team 2023 Member for AAG World Geography Bowl		(650.00)	
14-Apr-23	Check # 5021	Gregory Carlton	2023 SEDAAG Mini Grant		(500.00)	
17-Apr-23	Check # 5024	Rachel Arney	2023 SEDAAG Mini Grant		(500.00)	
17-Apr-23	Check # 5027	John Swab	SEDAAG Team 2023 Member for AAG World Geography Bowl		(650.00)	
17-Apr-23	Check # 5028	Kaleb Dunlap	SEDAAG Team 2023 Member for AAG World Geography Bowl		(650.00)	
19-Apr-23	Check # 5025	Alexander Perry	SEDAAG Team 2023 Member for AAG World Geography Bowl		(650.00)	
19-Apr-23	Check # 5030	Sarah VanSchook	SEDAAG Team 2023 Member for AAG World Geography Bowl		(650.00)	
20-Apr-23	Check # 5031	Seth Kannarr	SEDAAG Team 2023 Member for AAG World Geography Bowl		(650.00)	
20-Apr-23	Check # 5026	Jed Debruin	SEDAAG Team 2023 Member for AAG World Geography Bowl		(650.00)	
28-Apr-23	Balance					\$45,638.10
2-May-23	Mobile Deposit	UNC Charlotte Department of Geography and Earth Sciences	SEDAAG 2023 Annual Meeting Sponsorship (includes 4 student meeting registrations)	\$ 450.00		
12-May-23	Mobile Deposit	UNC Press	SEDAAG Member Dues January-March 2023	\$ 647.00		

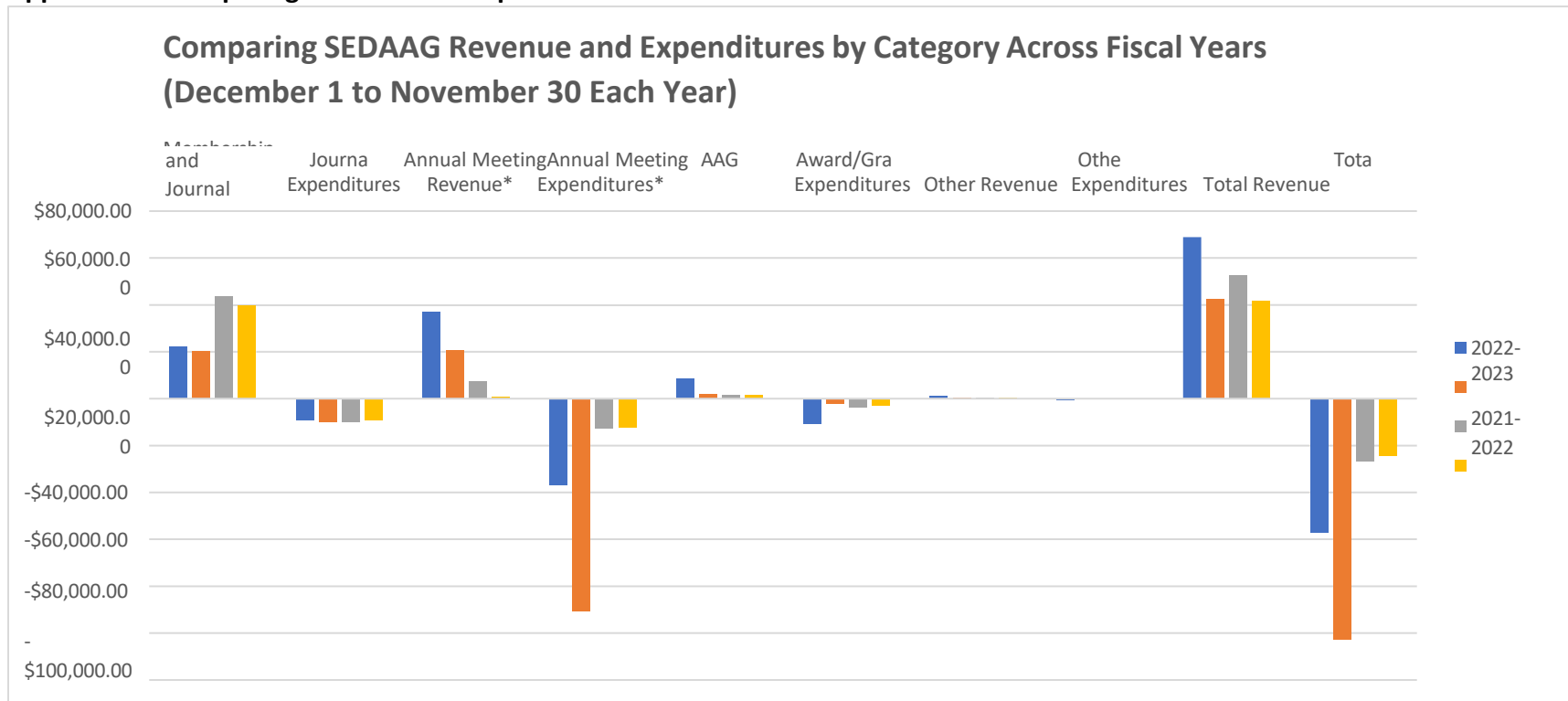
Date	Description	To/From	Note	Deposit	Withdrawal	Balance
23-May-23	Check # 5032	Dr. Dawn Drake	SEDAAG World Geography Bowl Team Banner Reimbursement		(64.61)	
31-May-23	Balance					\$46,670.49
30-Jun-23	Balance					\$46,670.49
31-Jul-23	Balance					\$46,670.49
1-Aug-23	Mobile Deposit	AAG	ESRI balance due for 2022 SEDAAG Annual Meeting in Atlanta (they had sent the check directly to AAG and then AAG sent SEDAAG this check)	\$ 500.00		
22-Aug-23	Mobile Deposit	Old Dominion University, OpenSeas Technology Innovation Hub (c/o Jerry Cronin, Executive Director)	2023 SEDAAG Annual Meeting Sponsorship	\$ 500.00		
31-Aug-23	Balance					\$47,670.49
8-Sep-23	Mobile Deposit	Virginia Tech, Department of Geography	2023 SEDAAG Annual Meeting Sponsorship	\$ 500.00		
8-Sep-23	Mobile Deposit	University of Richmond, School of Professional and Continuing Studies (c/o Tom Parfitt)	2023 SEDAAG Annual Meeting Sponsorship	\$ 500.00		
15-Sep-23	Mobile Deposit	UNC Press	SEDAAG Member Dues	\$ 481.00		
22-Sep-23	Mobile Deposit	UNC Press	FY 2023 SEG Surplus	\$15,784.05		
29-Sep-23	Balance					\$64,935.54
16-Oct-23	Mobile Deposit	AAG	AAG combined payment of \$1,150 region award for student registration support, \$2,500 stipend for a SEDAAG Community Outreach Fellow, and \$1,500 region support fee = \$5,150.00	\$ 5,150.00		
16-Oct-23	Mobile Deposit	Virginia Geographic Alliance (c/o Robert W. Morrill)	2023 SEDAAG Annual Meeting Sponsorship	\$ 1,000.00		
25-Oct-23	Mobile Deposit	Robert Gudea	Reimbursing SEDAAG for 2023 SEDAAG Mini Grant which he was unable to use (see email correspondence)	\$ 500.00		
1-Nov-23	Balance					\$71,585.54
4-Nov-23	Mobile Deposit	ESRI	2023 SEDAAG Annual Meeting Sponsorship	\$ 500.00		
6-Nov-23	Mobile Deposit	UNC Press	SEDAAG Member Dues	\$ 3,342.00		
6-Nov-23	Balance					\$75,427.54

Date	Description	To/From	Note	Deposit	Withdrawal	Balance
6-Nov-23	Check (pending bill pay check #)	Annie Elledge	2024 SEDAAG Mini Grant		(500.00)	
6-Nov-23	Check (pending bill pay check #)	Katrina Stack Finkelstein	2024 SEDAAG Mini Grant		(500.00)	
6-Nov-23	Check (pending bill pay check #)	Mark Sciuchetti	Constant Contact Email System Subscription		(162.00)	
9-Nov-23	Check (pending bill pay check #)	Dr. William Graves	Reimbursement for 2023 Norfolk Annual Meeting Award Plaques		(271.62)	
10-Nov-23	Check (pending bill pay check #)	Dr. Brian Williams	<i>Southeastern Geographer</i> Editor's Honorarium		(2,000.00)	
10-Nov-23	Check (pending bill pay check #)	Dr. Shrinidhi Ambinakudige	<i>Southeastern Geographer</i> Editor's Honorarium		(2,000.00)	
10-Nov-23	Check (pending bill pay check #)	Dr. Madhuri Sharma	<i>Southeastern Geographer</i> Book Review Editor's Honorarium		(1,000.00)	
10-Nov-23	Check (pending bill pay check #)	Mississippi State University	<i>Southeastern Geographer</i> editorial funds; Support for editorial assistant, promotional material, travel, and other expenses.		(4,000.00)	
13-Nov-23	Balance (including the pending bill pays above since November 6)					\$64,993.92

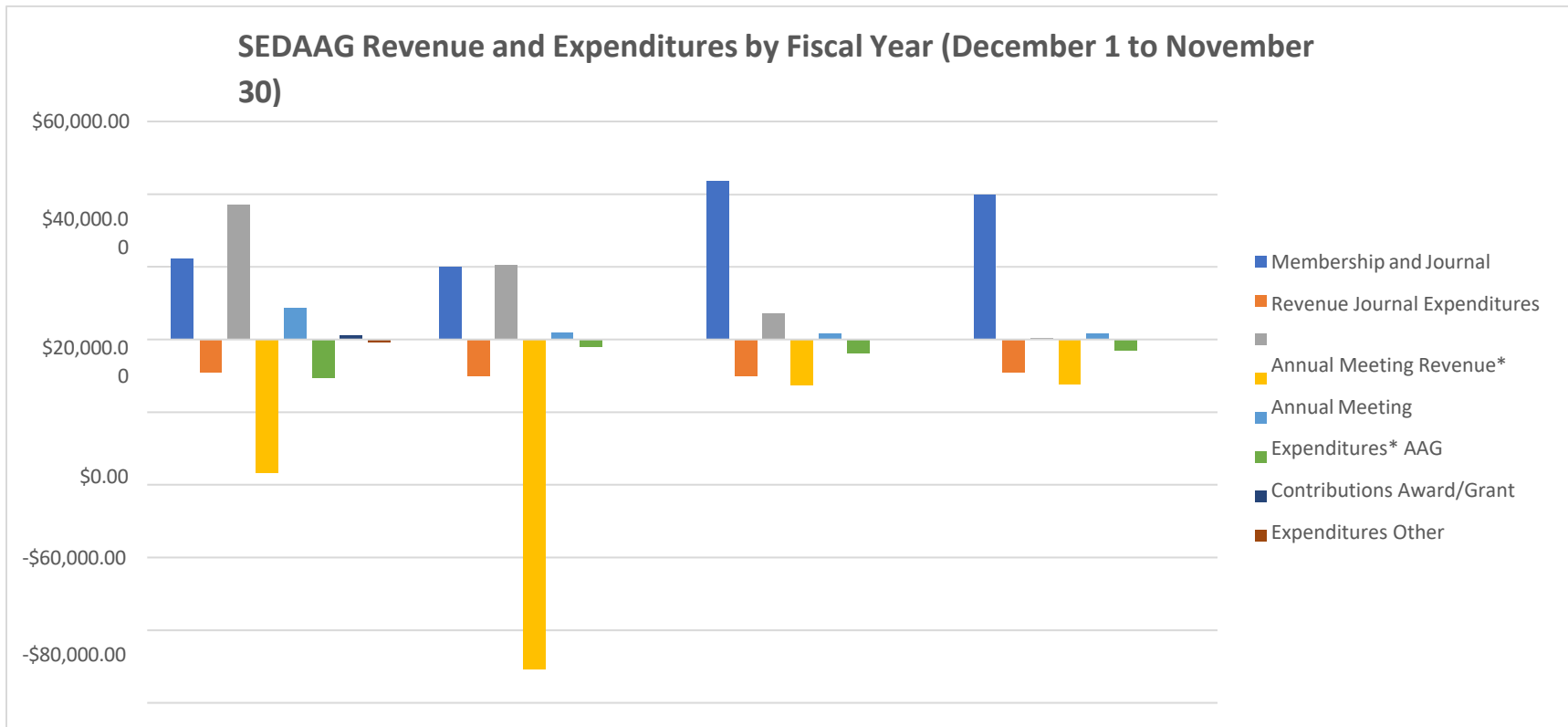
Appendix II: Money Market Savings Account

Date	Description	To/From	Note	Deposit	Withdrawal	Balance
Note: November 1-30, 2022, included here for reference (these dates were not included in the 2022 Treasurer's report, which was prepared in early November 2022 in advance of the SEDAAG 2022 conference in Atlanta).						
1-Nov-22	Balance					\$172,460.18
16-Nov-22	Mobile App Transfer	Transfer to Checking Account	Transfer from Money Market account to Checking account to cover costs of 2022 SEDAAG Conference		(\$30,000.00)	
17-Nov-22	Mobile App Transfer	Transfer to Checking Account	Transfer from Money Market account to Checking account to cover costs of 2022 SEDAAG Conference		(\$10,000.00)	
23-Nov-22	Mobile App Transfer	Transfer to Checking Account	Transfer from Money Market account to Checking account to cover costs of 2022 SEDAAG Conference		(\$10,000.00)	
30-Nov-22	Interest Paid This Statement		Interest	\$ 1.23		\$122,461.41
1-Dec-22	Balance					\$122,461.41
30-Dec-22	Interest Paid This Statement		Interest	\$ 1.04		\$122,462.45
31-Jan-23	Interest Paid This Statement		Interest	\$ 1.04		\$122,463.49
28-Feb-23	Interest Paid This Statement		Interest	\$ 0.94		\$122,464.43
31-Mar-23	Interest Paid This Statement		Interest	\$ 1.04		\$122,465.47
28-Apr-23	Interest Paid This Statement		Interest	\$ 1.01		\$122,466.48
31-May-23	Interest Paid This Statement		Interest	\$ 1.04		\$122,467.52
30-Jun-23	Interest Paid This Statement		Interest	\$ 1.01		\$122,468.53
31-Jul-23	Interest Paid This Statement		Interest	\$ 1.04		\$122,469.57
31-Aug-23	Interest Paid This Statement		Interest	\$ 1.04		\$122,470.61
29-Sep-23	Interest Paid This Statement		Interest	\$ 1.01		\$122,471.62
31-Oct-23	Interest Paid This Statement		Interest	\$ 1.04		\$122,472.66

Appendix III: Comparing Revenue and Expenditures for the Past Several Fiscal Years

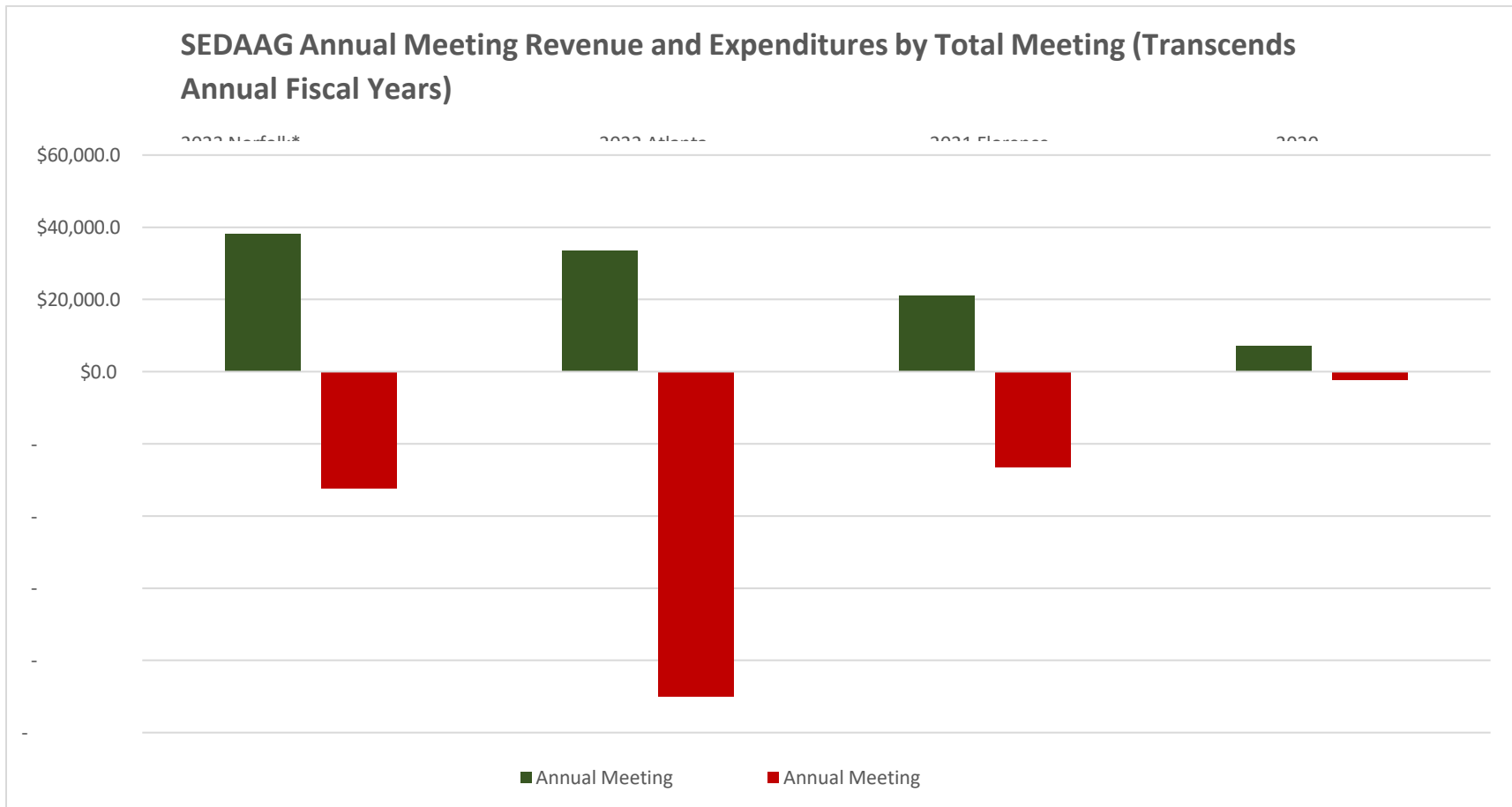


*Note: SEDAAG membership is processed through the *Southeastern Geographer* publisher. Membership and journal revenue includes membership dues and journal surplus revenue from the publisher. Payments from UNC Press related to journal revenues are uneven by year due to differing annual surplus amounts. Journal Expenditures are the annual stipend paid to the editors of *Southeastern Geographer*. For the Annual Meeting categories, these include revenues and expenditures during the particular fiscal year and may include revenues and expenditures related to more than one annual meeting. Annual Meeting Revenue includes registration fees and sponsorships (the 2022-2023 figure does not yet include estimated revenue from the 2023 annual meeting in Norfolk, which will likely arrive in the next fiscal year after December 1). Annual Meeting Expenditures include all costs associated with hosting the annual conference (fees paid to the venue and reimbursements for out-of-pocket expenses by SEDAAG members and conference assistants; the 2022-2023 figure does include estimated balance due for the 2023 annual meeting in Norfolk, which will likely be paid during the current fiscal year). AAG Contributions includes annual region and program support and grants received from AAG. Award/Grant Expenditures includes all expenses related to awards and grants. Other revenue includes donations and reimbursements to SEDAAG (rare), and Money Market account interest. Other Expenditures include reimbursements for out-of-pocket expenses such as World Geography Bowl expenses and Constant Contact email costs.



*Note: SEDAAG membership is processed through the *Southeastern Geographer* publisher. Membership and journal revenue includes membership dues and journal surplus revenue from the publisher. Payments from UNC Press related to journal revenues are uneven by year due to differing annual surplus amounts. Journal Expenditures are the annual stipend paid to the editors of *Southeastern Geographer*. For the Annual Meeting categories, these include revenues and expenditures during the particular fiscal year and may include revenues and expenditures related to more than one annual meeting. Annual Meeting Revenue includes registration fees and sponsorships (the 2022-2023 figure does not yet include estimated revenue from the 2023 annual meeting in Norfolk, which will likely arrive in the next fiscal year after December 1). Annual Meeting Expenditures include all costs associated with hosting the annual conference (fees paid to the venue and reimbursements for out-of-pocket expenses by SEDAAG members and conference assistants; the 2022-2023 figure does include estimated balance due for the 2023 annual meeting in Norfolk, which will likely be paid during the current fiscal year). AAG Contributions includes annual region and program support and grants received from AAG. Award/Grant Expenditures includes all expenses related to awards and grants. Other revenue includes donations and reimbursements to SEDAAG (rare), and Money Market account interest. Other Expenditures include reimbursements for out-of-pocket expenses such as World Geography Bowl expenses and Constant Contact email costs.

SEDAAG Annual Meeting Revenue and Expenditures by Total Meeting (Transcends Annual Fiscal Years)



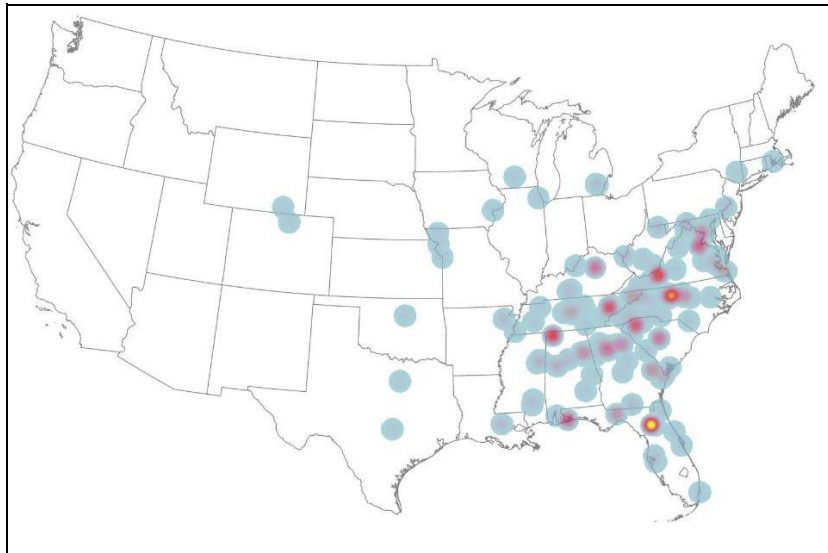
*Note: The figures in this chart are per meeting and span multiple fiscal years; as such they are slightly different than the previous graphs that are organized by fiscal year for all revenues and expenditures. 2023 Norfolk meeting revenue and expenditures are estimates as of November 13, 2023, based on registrations and sponsorships, as well as estimated expenses to the conference venue, as of that date. Revenues for an annual meeting include registrations paid and sponsorships received. Expenditures for an annual meeting include all costs associated with hosting the annual conference (deposit and all other fees and balance paid to the conference venue, and reimbursements for out-of-pocket expenses by SEDAAG members and conference assistants). Revenues and expenses for an annual conference often transcend multiple organization fiscal years. For instance, for the 2022 Atlanta conference, the deposit was paid in 2021, various expenses were paid leading up to the start of the meeting in November 2022, and a final balance due was paid in January 2023; revenue from the 2022 Atlanta meeting was received in December 2022, which was in the subsequent fiscal year after the annual meeting.

Appendix IV: Total Membership

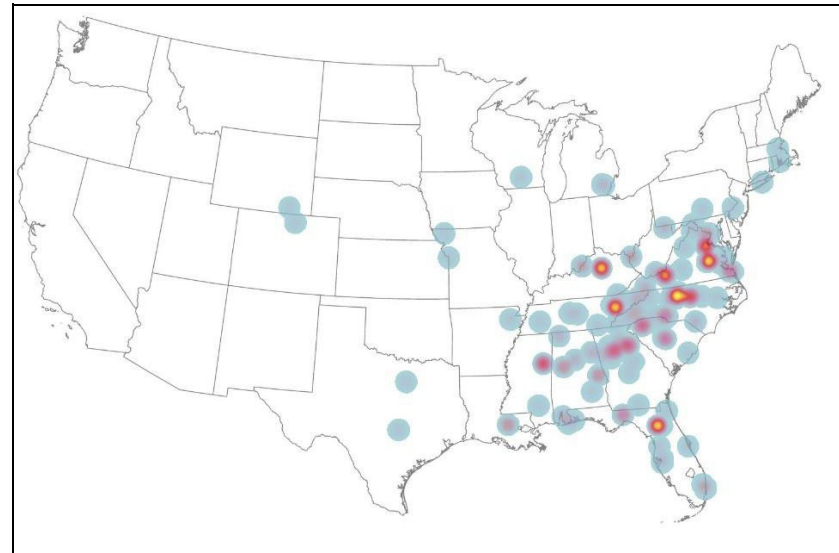
State	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2022-23 % Change	State
AL	51	32	47	38	42	33	38	25	39	19	10	48	27	18	-33	AL
FL	69	85	71	42	51	61	35	31	33	29	21	50	42	30	-29	FL
GA	59	67	58	60	123	48	64	52	41	22	16	31	31	25	-19	GA
KY	34	32	28	25	24	23	14	17	15	11	5	9	11	18	64	KY
MS	13	23	24	15	20	16	13	51	14	11	7	8	5	10	100	MS
NC	85	99	126	111	107	54	87	55	51	61	30	52	35	47	34	NC
SC	16	26	29	28	28	14	38	18	19	12	10	16	21	16	-24	SC
TN	35	34	38	41	47	29	37	34	50	30	16	29	27	24	-11	TN
VA	37	42	49	60	42	39	37	41	51	37	27	33	40	57	43	VA
WV	17	18	17	17	12	11	11	11	20	10	2	7	8	8	0	WV
Other*	-	-	-	33	38	31	28	29	27	23	16	17	30	24	-20	Other*
Total	416	458	487	470	534	359	402	364	360	265	160	301	277	277	0	Total

* "Other" includes AR, CO, DC, LA (4), MA, MI (2), MO (2), NY, PA (2), RI, TX (2), WI, WY, Germany, Brazil, Hungary, and the Netherlands. 2022 and 2023 data are based on membership reports received from the *Southeastern Geographer* publisher, UNC Press, on November 1 each year. Data prior to 2022 are based on previous SEDAAG Treasurer reports.

SEDAAG 2022 and 2023 Membership Comparison Heat Maps (as of November 1 each year)

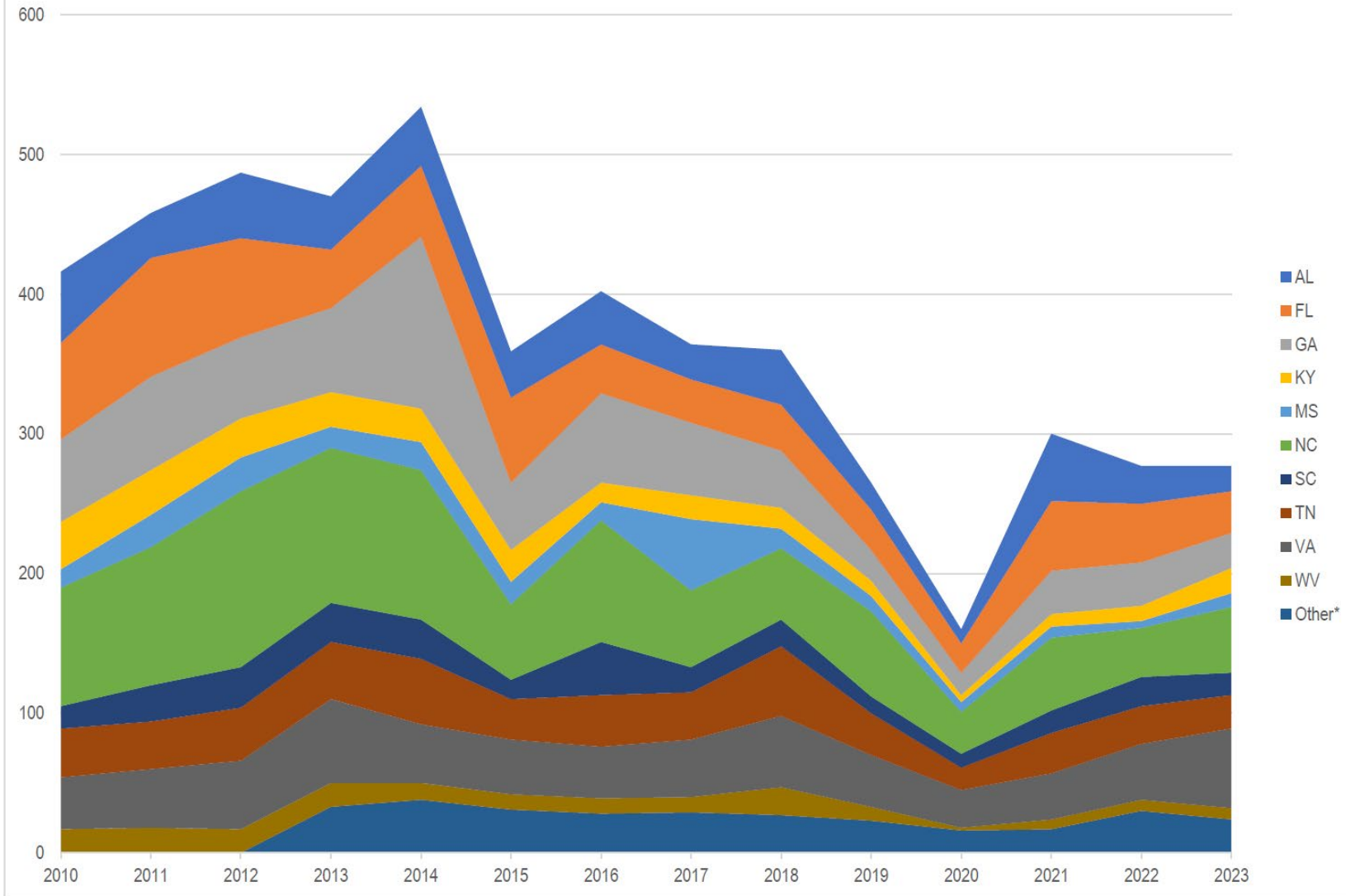


2022 SEDAAG Membership as of November 1, 2022 Annual Meeting held in Atlanta, Georgia

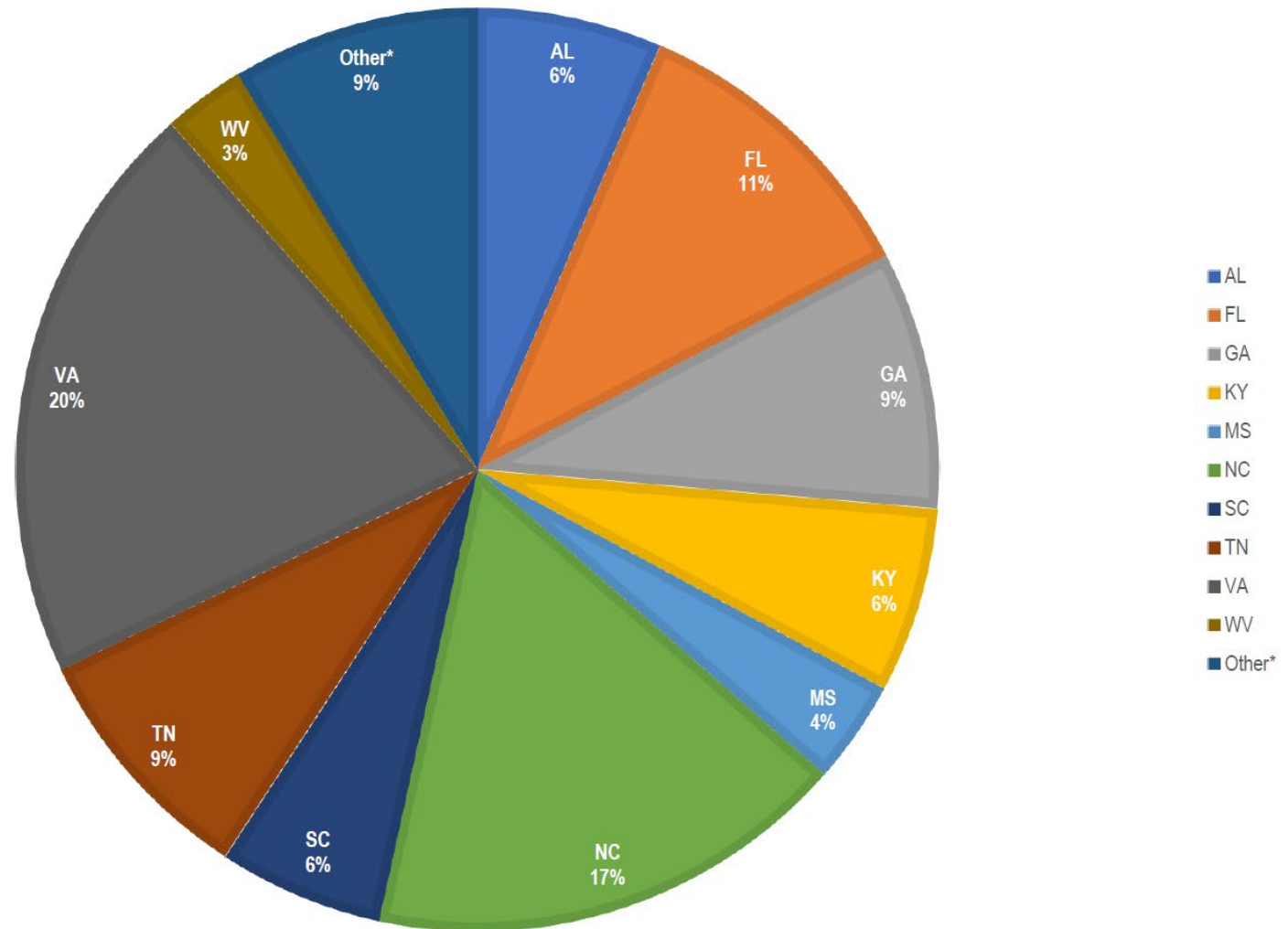


2023 SEDAAG Membership as of November 1, 2023 Annual Meeting held in Norfolk, Virginia

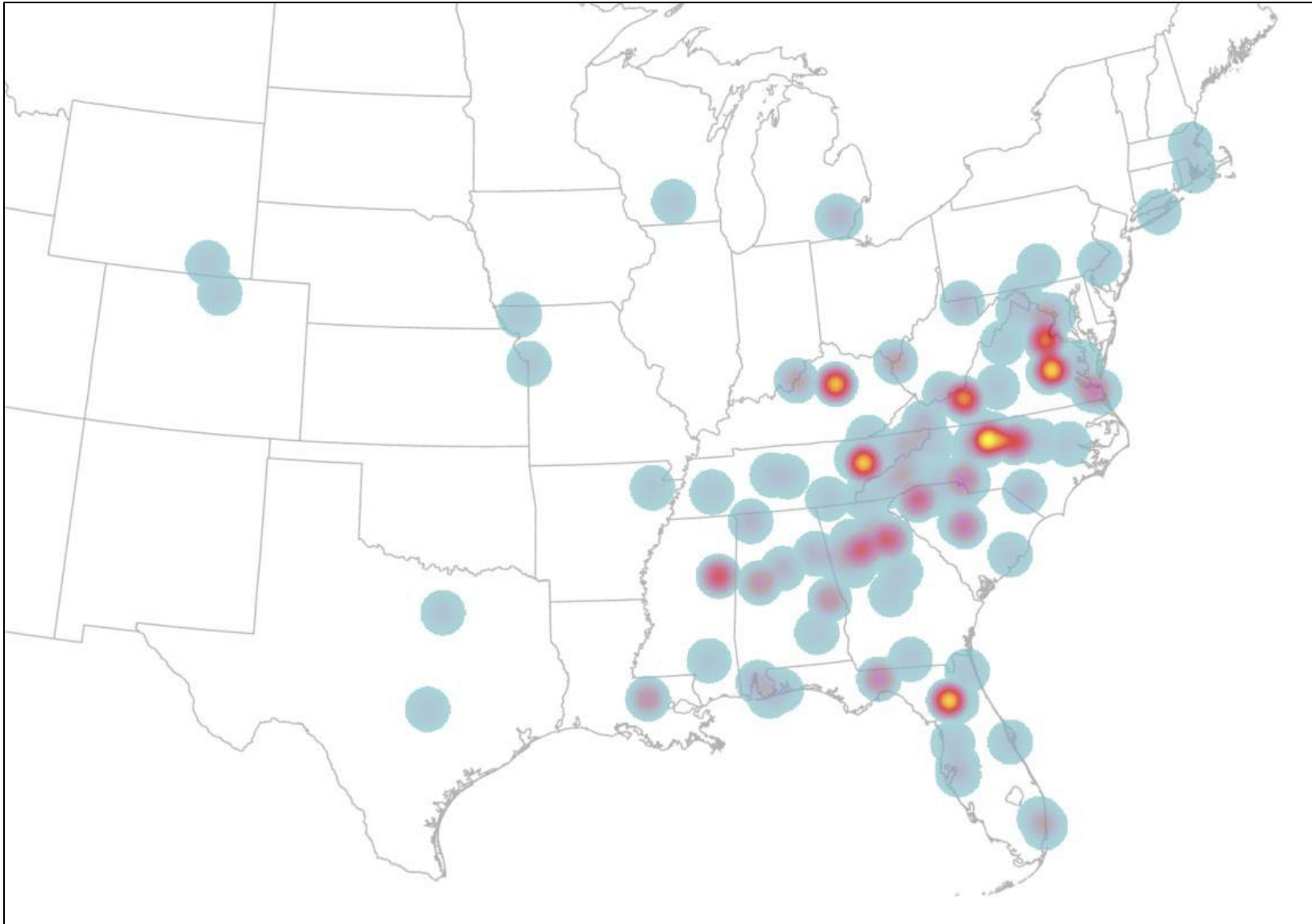
SEDAAG Total Membership by State (2010 to 2023)



SEDAAG 2023 Total Membership Percent by State (N=277)

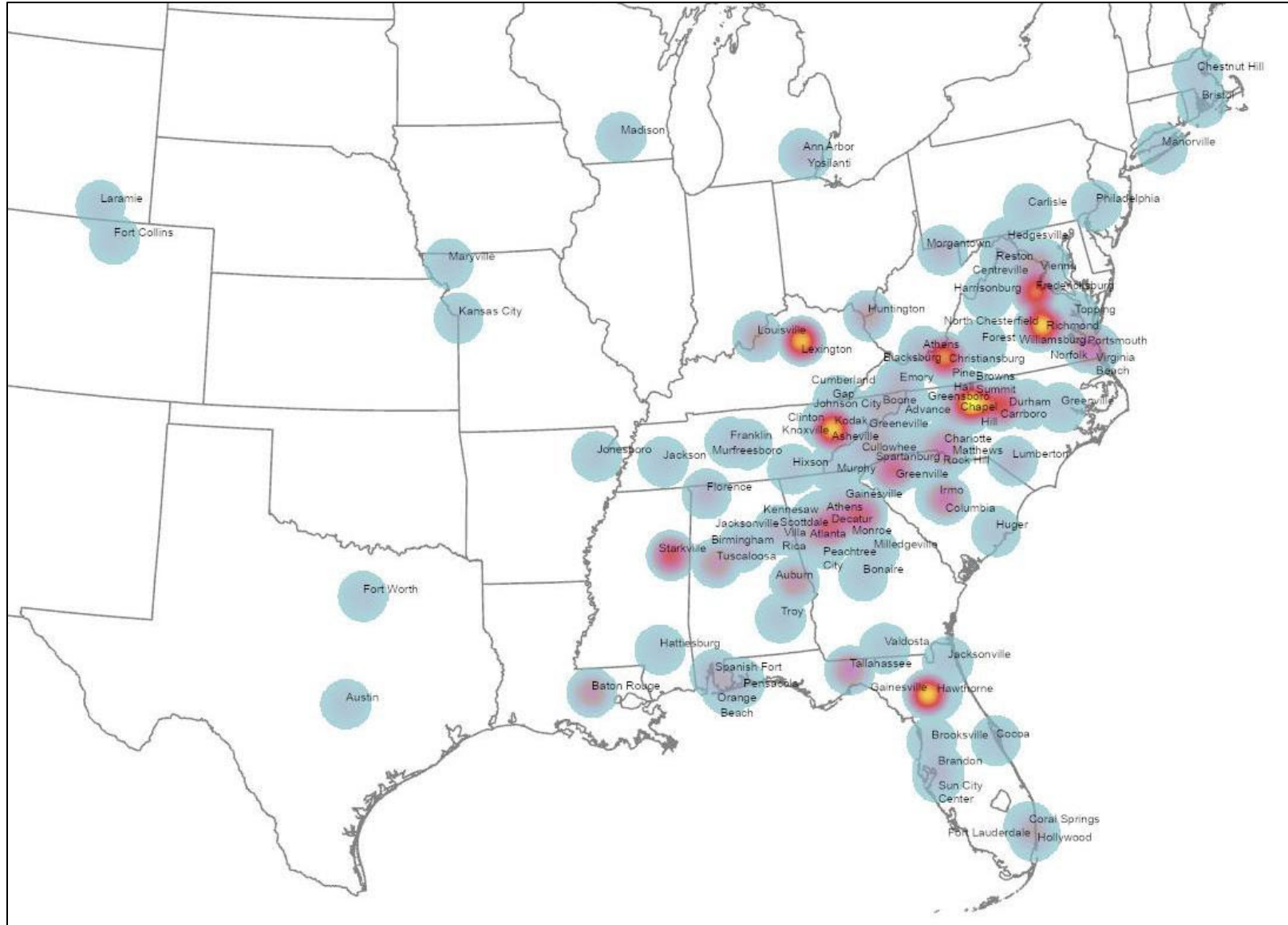


SEDAAG 2023 Membership Heat Map (as of November 1, 2023)



Data are based on membership report received from the *Southeastern Geographer* publisher, UNC Press, on November 1, 2023.

SEDAAG 2023 Membership Heat Map with Place Names (as of November 1, 2023)



Data are based on membership report received from the *Southeastern Geographer* publisher, UNC Press, on November 1, 2023.

Appendix V: Non-Student Membership

State	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2022-23 % Change	State
AL	26	22	39	25	19	21	19	16	21	10	10	22	10	11	10	AL
FL	39	50	35	30	29	33	17	18	17	24	14	25	16	13	-19	FL
GA	28	22	26	27	45	19	27	23	21	18	12	12	16	15	-6	GA
KY	20	20	20	18	20	16	11	14	10	8	5	7	4	5	25	KY
MS	10	13	16	9	13	11	10	28	9	8	6	7	4	4	0	MS
NC	52	57	70	62	61	38	43	32	30	32	20	30	19	25	32	NC
SC	14	17	14	17	14	12	21	14	13	11	6	11	6	7	17	SC
TN	28	21	17	18	22	13	20	13	22	15	7	16	12	15	25	TN
VA	31	32	30	31	26	20	20	27	33	24	22	26	21	29	38	VA
WV	14	16	14	15	11	10	8	8	12	10	1	7	5	7	40	WV
Other*	-	-	-	28	20	21	17	18	16	16	13	17	24	20	-17	Other*
Total	262	270	281	280	280	214	213	211	204	176	116	180	137	151	10	Total

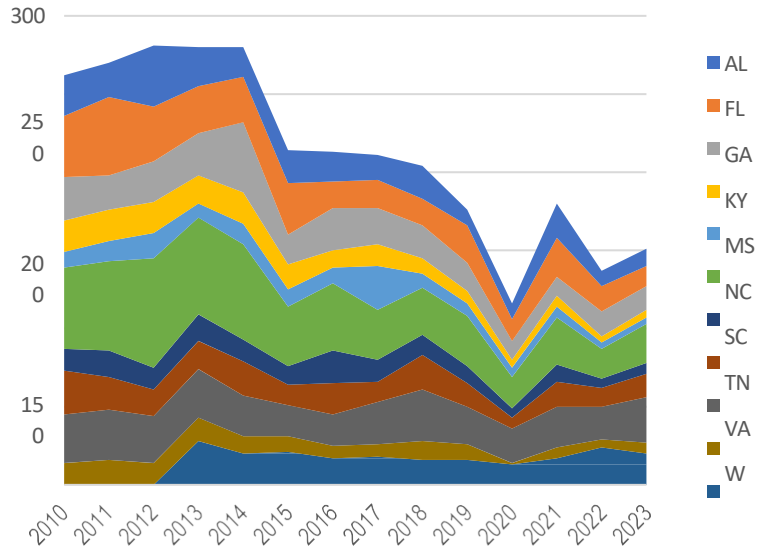
* "Other" includes: AR, CO, DC, LA (2), MA, MI (2), MO (2), NY, PA, RI, TX (2), WI, WY, Germany, Brazil, and the Netherlands. Data are based on membership report received from the *Southeastern Geographer* publisher, UNC Press, on November 1, 2023.

Appendix VI: Student Membership

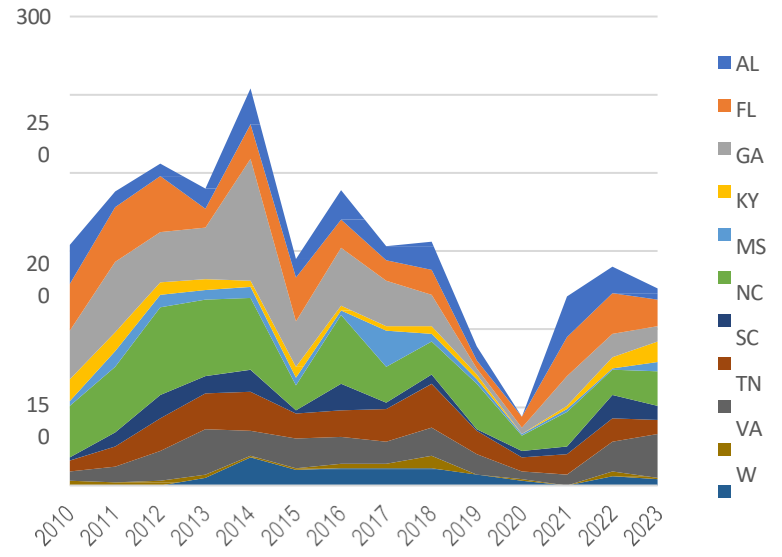
State	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2022-23 % Change	State
AL	25	10	8	13	23	12	19	9	18	9	0	26	17	7	-59	AL
FL	30	35	36	12	22	28	18	13	16	5	7	25	26	17	-35	FL
GA	31	45	32	33	78	29	37	29	20	4	4	19	15	10	-33	GA
KY	14	12	8	7	4	7	3	3	5	3	0	2	7	13	86	KY
MS	3	10	8	6	7	5	3	23	5	3	1	2	1	6	500	MS
NC	33	42	56	49	46	16	44	23	21	29	10	22	16	22	38	NC
SC	2	9	15	11	14	2	17	4	6	1	4	5	15	9	-40	SC
TN	7	13	21	23	25	16	17	21	28	15	9	13	15	9	-40	TN
VA	6	10	19	29	16	19	17	14	18	13	5	7	19	28	47	VA
WV	3	2	3	2	1	1	3	3	8	0	1	0	3	1	-67	WV
Other*	-	-	-	5	18	10	11	11	11	7	3	0	6	4	-33	Other*
Total	154	188	206	190	254	145	189	153	156	89	44	121	140	126	16	Total

* "Other" includes: LA (2), PA, and Hungary. Data are based on membership report received from the *Southeastern Geographer* publisher, UNC Press, on November 1, 2023.

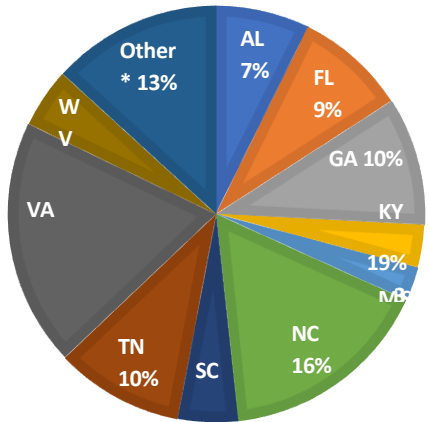
SEDAAG Non-Student Membership by State (2010 to 2023)



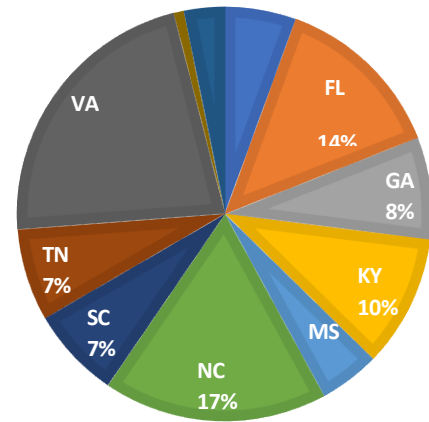
SEDAAG Student Membership by State (2010 to 2023)



SEDAAG 2023 Non-Student Membership Percent by State (N=151)



SEDAAG 2023 Student Membership Percent by State (N=126)



12. Secretary/Webmaster's Report and Communications
2023 SEDAAG
Submitted by Dr. Mark Sciuchetti, Jacksonville State University

1. The website has been updated and reorganized. There will be continued updates in the coming year.
 - a. Use of the News tab to update current events and social media posts
 - b. Removed redundant pages and old awards (now archived)
2. We have begun to utilize more social media. New Science Communications Fellow (Margaret Walton) to assist with communication and to grow our networks.
 - a. Facebook
 - b. Twitter (X)
 - c. Instagram
 - d. LinkedIn
 - e. Other accounts we should have?
3. When posting to social media if it relates to SEDAAG please be sure to connect and tag SEDAAG, also to grow our network be sure you are connecting with our social media.
4. Please email any updates you see for the website. Be sure that if you would like anything communicated via the website or social media you cc the secretary as they are not always on all email communication such as for awards, updates, job postings, etc.
5. Suggestions for the website?
6. Email communication has been very efficient this year. We began the use of a software, Constant Contact, that allows us to send bulk emails. We have 1,378 emails subscribed to receive our communications. Average open and click rate is 75%. We should continue to use this service for email if possible (cost of \$500 yearly).

14. Geography Bowl Report
2023 SEDAAG
Submitted by Dr. Dwan Drake, University of Oklahoma

1. 2023 Bowl Preview (As of 11/13)

- Teams forming from Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia with single players from North Carolina and Alabama registered as well.
 - 24 Students pre-registered by a faculty sponsor or using the Google form.
 - Questions and volunteers sufficient to field up to 8 teams.
- 10 rounds of questions written by 10 writers
- 13 volunteers managing Sunday's bowl
- Faculty Dream Team participants: Dr. Patricia Ehrkemp, Dr. Bill Graves, Dr. Jamison Conley, Dr. Jonathan Leib, Dr. Geoffrey Habron, and Dr. Joshua Hodge
- Dream Team round questions written by Dr. Peggy Gripshover
- Championship round questions written by Dr. Ethan Bottone

2. On going reminders and discussions

- Schedule Conflicts
 - Important source of travel funding for students
 - Thank you for all the effort to allow students and faculty not to have conflicts.
- State Coordinators?
 - States with coordinators tend to do better in the bowl, similar to the national experience.
 - Coordinators lead to higher levels of pre-registration of players, which helps with planning.


3. Budget

- Thank you for accommodating and supporting the students over the past year by allowing a 7th player to travel to AAG when there was no sensible way to break the tie. Also, for buying the table banner that the students requested (\$65) – on display at the registration table.
- Plaques were ordered from previous supplier in Missouri and shipped directly to hotel rather than incur the cost of having the artwork set again at a vendor in Norman (Cost TBD).
- Travel funding for 2024 AAG
 - In the past SEDAAG has provided \$500 per student. Please approve travel funding for the team for 2024 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.
 - AAG's funding is unknown at this time, however in the past it has been \$500 per region (total), with a \$500 bonus if the region also funds the students.
 - Please know that the students are very grateful for the travel funding they receive each year. They also are well aware that most regions are not as lucky.

Dr. Dawn M. Drake
University of Oklahoma
dmdrake@ou.edu

**15. *Southeastern Geography* Report
2023 SEDAAG**

Submitted by Dr. Shrinidhi Ambinakudige and Dr. Brian Williams, Mississippi State University




Southeastern Geographer

**Edited by Shrinidhi
Ambinakudige and Brian
Williams**

The *Southeastern Geographer* is a peer-reviewed journal that publishes articles, research notes, and book reviews on all geographical topics with emphasis on the American South.

More information about the journal, including how to subscribe, can be found here:



<https://uncpress.org/journals/southeastern-geographer/>

Contact: segedit@geosci.msstate.edu



Southeastern Geographer

SEG Annual Report 2023
SEDAAG Meeting
Norfolk, VA

Editorial Team (starting July 23)

Editors

- Shrinidhi Ambinakudige & Brian Williams
Mississippi State University

Book Review Editor

- Madhuri Sharma, *University of Tennessee*

Editorial Assistant

- Nishat Shermin, *Mississippi State University*



Editorial Transition

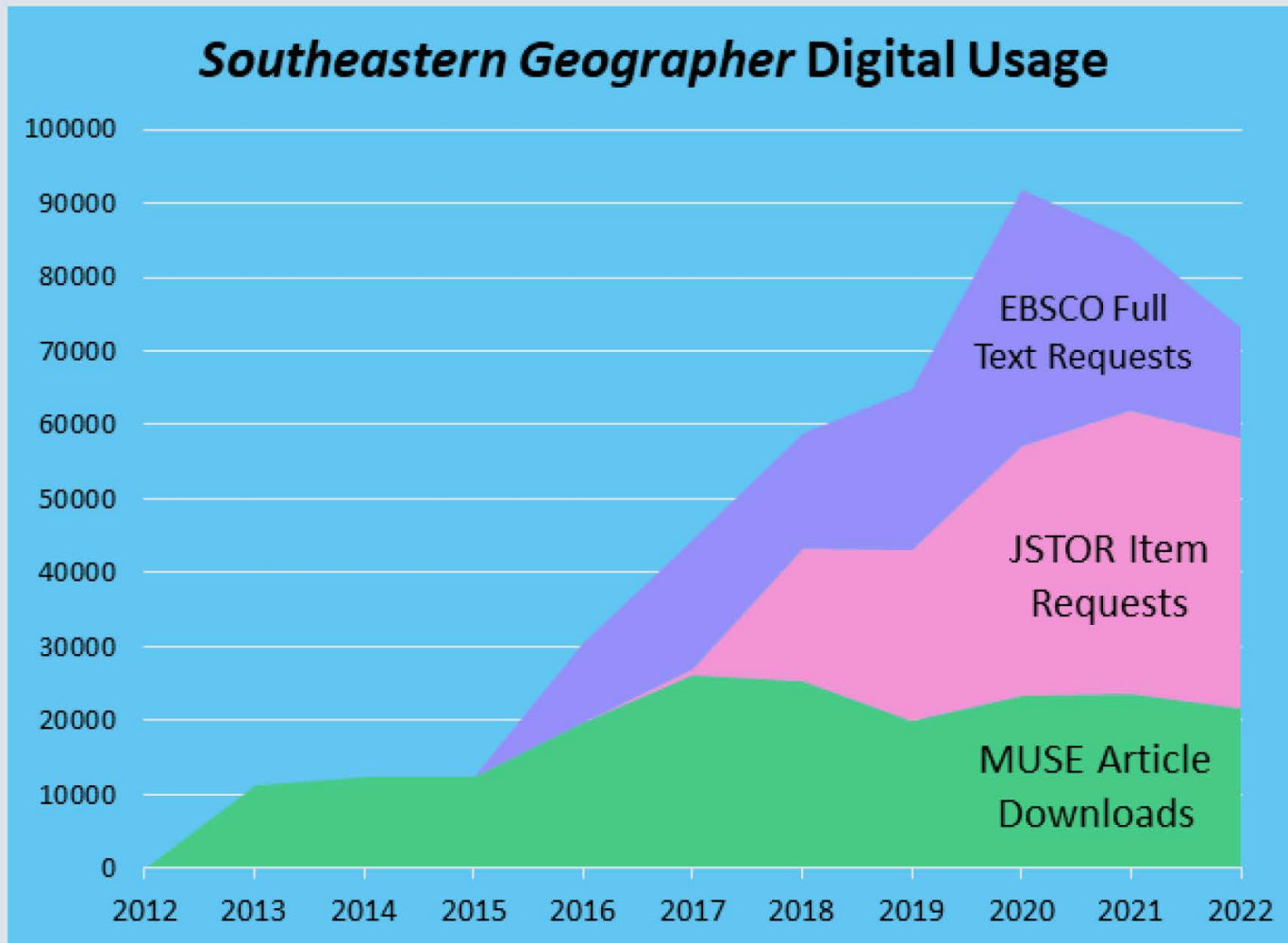
- Previous Editors Paul Knapp and Selima Sultana (UNC Greensboro), edited all the 2023 issues [63 (1-4)]
- New team edited 64 (1) onwards
- *Thanks to the previous editors, as well as editorial assistants Ridwaana Allen (UNCG) and Tyler Mitchell (UNCG) and Book Review Editor Joe Weber (University of Alabama) for information and guidance in the transition.*

Articles Downloads and Usage

Calendar Year	MUSE Article Downloads*	JSTOR Item Requests	EBSCO Full Text Requests	Total Digital
2012	N/A	N/A	0	0
2013	11,213	0	0	11,213
2014	12,259	0	0	12,259
2015	12,261	0	0	12,261
2016	19,762	0	10,518	30,280
2017	26,124	953	17,277	44,354
2018	25,210	18,198	15,499	58,907
2019	20,064	22,951	21,914	64,929
2020	23,408	33,871	34,495	91,774
2021	23,633	38,300	23,552	85,485
2022	21,538	36,877	14,909	73,324

Note that MUSE “article downloads” count only downloads, while EBSCO “text requests” and JSTOR “item requests” include both views and downloads; the stats compare different kinds of usage.

Articles Downloads and Usage

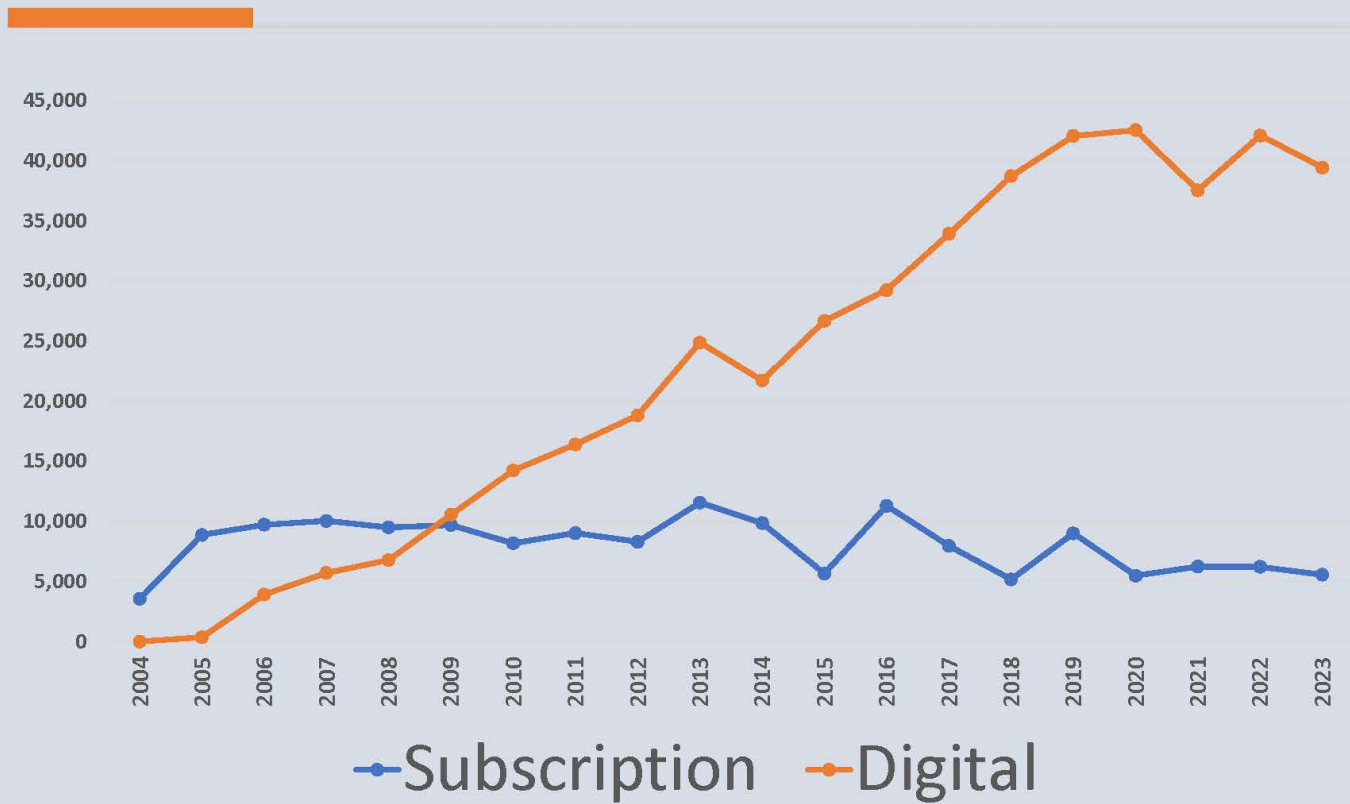


Operating Statement

The journal continues to operate at a healthy surplus

	Vol. 62.3, 62.4, 63.1 & 63.2 4 Issues	Vol. 61.3, 61.4, 62.1, & 62.2 4 Issues
<u>Income</u>		
Subscription Sales	5,564.17	6,217.48
Digital Revenue	39,432.53	42,099.66
Royalties	270.09	247.81
Permissions		
E-Book Sales		24.68
Advertising		
Total Income	45,266.79	48,589.63
<u>Expenses</u>		
Production	4,403.75	5,937.25
Printing	4,863.05	5,773.87
Issue Mailing Postage		
Press Service Fee	18,106.71	19,434.12
Editorial platform (ScholarOne)	1,983.8	1,390.51
Web Hosting/WordPress	50.8	167.54
Marketing		
Warehouse Fees/Pstg/Storage	9.63	17.53
Office Postage		
Miscellaneous	65	195
Total Expenses	2,9482.74	32,916
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	15,784.05	15,673.81

SEG's Revenue Sources



Journal's impact factor coming soon:

According to Clarivate, *Southeastern Geographer's* impact factor will be assigned by Summer 2024.

Introducing Early Release articles

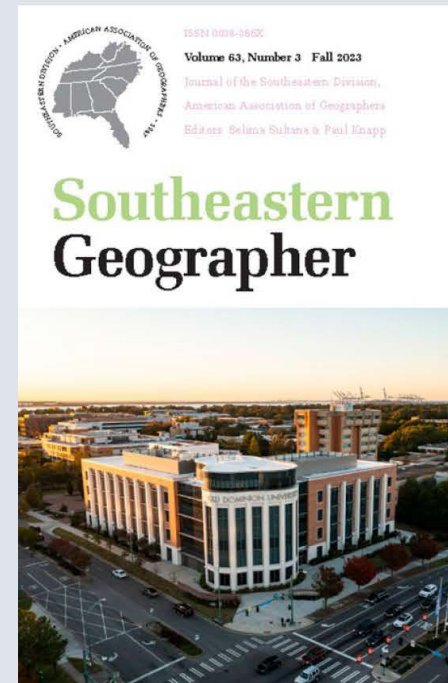
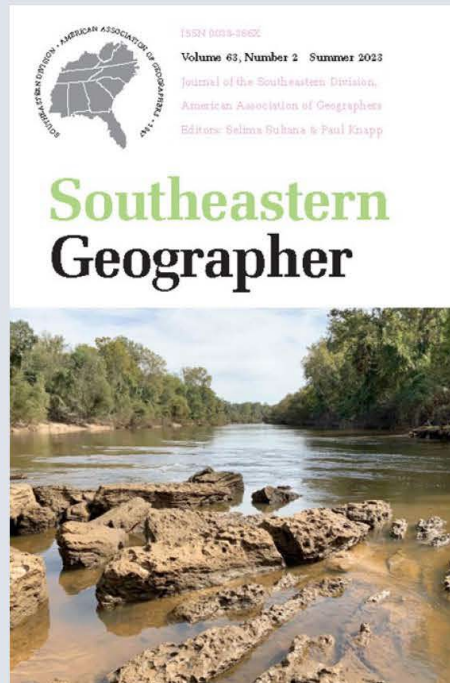
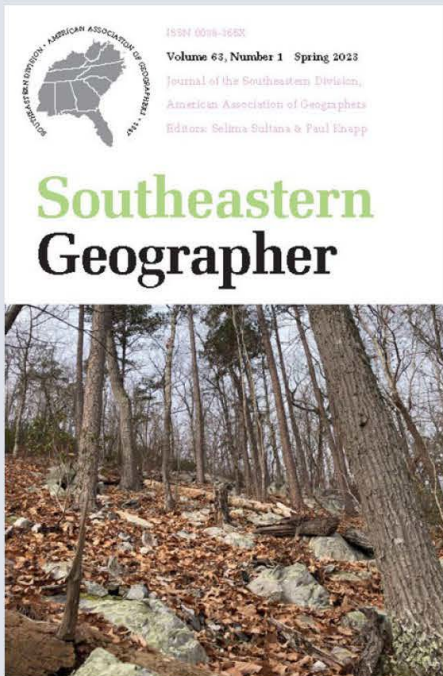
- 2 pilot articles from 64(1) are being made available in advance through Project Muse as Early Release
- Early Release articles will be visible at the top of the Project Muse site until they are then given final release in their assigned issue
- A broader rollout of Early Release will be implemented for subsequent issues

Manuscripts with initial submission on or after January 1, 2023

Manuscript Decision	Number of Manuscripts	Percentage of Total
Accept	9	36%
Reject	4	16%
In Review or Awaiting Revisions	12	48%
Total	25	100%

2023 Issues

- 63 (1) : 5 articles & 2 Book Reviews
- 63 (2) : 3 articles & 2 Book Reviews
- 63 (3) : 5 articles & 2 Book Reviews
- 63 (4) : *Forthcoming*



Around the Corner: 64 (1 & 2) 2024

- Special Issues on Water
- Guest Editors
 - *Joann Mossa, University of Florida*
 - *Sarah Praskievicz, University of North Carolina*
 - *Johanna Engström, University of Florida*



**64 (1) articles
finalized, and
with UNC Press**

***64 (1) Cover Photo
and Essay***

**Energy vs. the Environment: A
case study of the Allatoona Dam**

*Johanna Engström
University of Florida*

64(1) Table of Contents

Cover Art: Energy vs. the Environment: A case study of the Allatoona Dam

Johanna Engström

Guest Editors' Introduction: Water and Rivers in the South

Sarah Praskievicz, Joann Mossa, Johanna Engström

PART I: PAPERS

Special Issue

- UAV Imagery for Measuring Large Wood Volume and Distribution: Ground Truthing Results and Sources of Error -- *Joshua W. Hess, Robert T. Pavlowsky, Toby Dogwiler*
- **Spatial and Temporal Characteristics of Channel Disturbance Zones in Big River, Southeast Missouri (1937-2018) -- *Marc R. Owen, Robert T. Pavlowsky, Derek J. Martin*
- Using Lidar to Find the Southeast's Remnant Rivercane -- *G. Rebecca Dobbs, Diane M. Styers*
- Recovery and Restoration of Disturbed Sand Bars of the Apalachicola River, Florida ---
Joann Mossa, Yin-Hsuen Chen, Amobichukwu Chukwudi Amanambu, Ali Alruzug

Regular Submissions

- The Southeast Florida Surface Urban Heat Island and Hispanic Ethnic Exposure Inequalities --- *Kevin Cresswell*
- The Foreign-Trade Zone and its Impacts on Neighboring Communities in Mobile, Alabama -
- *Jesse M. Lane*

PART II: REVIEWS

Red Hot City: Housing, Race, and Exclusion in Twenty-First Century Atlanta by Dan Immergluck --

Reviewed by *Nabeela Farhat*

**16. AAG Southeastern Div. Regional Councilor update
2023 SEDAAG
Submitted by Dr. Heidi Lannon, at Santa Fe College**

Key decisions from September 2023 AAG Council Meeting

2024 AAG Meeting

President Rebecca Lave's main area of focus has been the Hawai'i meeting, esp. the work she, Langham, and local Hawai'ian experts have put into addressing questions raised by AAG members and attendees about the meeting's location, and the impacts on residents. There has been appreciation for AAG's efforts in offering Hawai'ian perspectives on local justice and sovereignty through the AAG webinar series on Hawai'i. She also thanked Langham and staff for making this a new model for how AAG will approach its future Annual Meeting locations.

Lave is also working with a focus group and AAG staff on a special series of events and a focal day in Hawai'i for Undergraduate and Graduate student attendees. She stated that one of the challenges the group will address is food insecurity for students at AAG Meetings.

Mentoring Task Force

Vice President Patricia Ehrkamp has formed a Mentoring Task Force (WinklerPrins and Barnes are already serving on it) to support early career faculty and recent graduates. The task force will be holding sessions at several upcoming fall Regional Meetings (West Lakes, REP/Middle Atlantic, SEDAAG).

Council reviews

Council will review AAG Committees every 3 years, alternating this review with that of the Specialty Groups and the AAG Ethics Statement.

Finance Update

The AAG posted a \$2.3M deficit in FYE 2023, mainly due to the 2023 Denver Annual Meeting revenue, which was \$1.4M lower than anticipated with fewer than 50% attendees compared to the 2015-2019 AAG Annual Meetings. In addition, expenses were approx. \$700K over the budgeted amount, due to both inflation and hybrid modalities. This year, the AAG is likely to post a deficit again, due to the challenges associated with holding the Annual Meeting in Hawai'i.

The early-bird registration deadline of Sept. 21 totaled 898 registrants, compared to the approx. 2,000 that registered by the same deadline in pre-Covid years. Executive Director Langham and Finance Director Orgodol propose reducing proportional revenue for the AAG for the Annual Meeting down to 32%, publications royalties to 32%, and raise membership to 20%, and externally funded grants to 16%.

Langham was recently contacted by the leaders of a Research Coordination Network (RCN) group on household water-related issues (HWISE-RCN.org), who are interested in the AAG as a potential future home for their activities. Langham suggested that this RCN become a Community of Practice within the AAG, with their members joining the AAG (and AAG Specialty Groups), possibly also launching a new journal with a revenue-sharing mechanism with the AAG. Council approved exploring a formal collaboration with this RCN as a pilot, to determine whether such a partnership could be a feasible revenue-generating model for the AAG to expand upon.

Council approved raising the Lifetime Membership dues, and also exploring additional membership dues rate increases, to go into effect in the course of 2024. Langham and staff will develop proposals for dues increases and a membership drive for Council review.

Publications

Langham will research with the AAG's publisher to explore the feasibility and potential success for additional journals in specific topical areas and then bring a proposal back to Council for review.

Guo Chen was appointed as the *Professional Geographer's* second editor. She will begin serving in January 2024, for a 5-year term.

In January 2024, there will be calls for Editors for the *AAG Review of Books* and the *Annals*, to succeed outgoing editors Debbie Hopkins, David Butler, and Brian King respectively.

Elevate the Discipline / Advocacy

In August, 15 scholars spent a week in Washington, DC in training sessions with news media outlets. They acquired the know-how to reach out to the media, and several have already had successful interactions with local, national, and international news outlets. There is interest in exploring how to share some of these lessons learned with other AAG members and Annual Meeting attendees.

The AAG Council adopted a statement in support of Florida scholars engaged in critical research and teaching that has been under attack in that state.

Langham will develop a charge for a new Climate Action Committee, to take on and continue the work of the Climate Action Task Force whose term of service will soon end.

JEDI Plan Implementation

The approach being implemented by the JEDI Committee and its Subcommittees is referred to as TLC-GRAM, meaning cultivating a Culture of Care through Training, Listening, Communications (TLC) as applied to AAG Governance, Reports, Advocacy, and Membership (GRAM). AAG Chief Strategy Officer Risha RaQuelle indicated having worked closely with the JEDI Committee to establish Subcommittees that will suggest ways to infuse JEDI principles and approaches to the focus categories of the AAG Strategic Plan.

RaQuelle mentioned that since the 2023 AAG Annual Meeting, she has established a series of bi-monthly JEDI Subcommittee meetings and bi-monthly progress reports to the JEDI Committee scheduled through the end of the year when draft workplans are expected to be complete.

**19. Education Committee Report
2023 SEDAAG
Submitted by Dr. Jennifer Rahn, Samford University**



Date: November 20, 2023
To: Dr. Bill Graves , SEDAAG President
From: Jennifer Rahn, SEDAAG Education Committee Chair

SEDAAG Education Committee Report

In 2023 the SEDAAG Education committee is running its 14th annual Undergraduate Honors Poster Competition. This year there were a total of 17 undergraduate posters and 6 of them were registered in the competition.

We will be searching for some fresh ideas by looking for some new volunteers for this committee this year.

SEDAAG Education Committee members 2022:

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