



KENNESAW STATE
UNIVERSITY

Department of Geography and Anthropology

2025-2026 Year-in-Review Newsletter

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Upward trajectory to prominence



The Department of Geography and Anthropology continues its **upward trajectory to prominence** through relevant research, high-impact teaching, and community engagement. Students who graduate from our department are ready to achieve their career goals with packed resumes full of internship experiences, hands-on research with cutting-edge technologies, and a diverse range of hard and soft skills. These critical proficiencies

ensure employers return to our department year-over-year. In addition to last year's Geography and Geospatial Sciences programs selection for the most prestigious USG award, the Regents' Teaching Excellence Award for Department or Program, this year we added the Anthropology program's selection for the Anthropology Career Readiness Network's (ACRN) **Departmental Advisory Initiative (DAI) Award** to integrate career readiness into the curriculum. This award is supported by a consortium of professional anthropology associations. Additionally, the Land Surveying Professional Certificate is now one of only three programs in the state to be reviewed and approved as a recommended curriculum by the [Georgia Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors \(PELS\) Board](#).

The department will miss Program Support Specialist Susanne Rothery's enthusiasm and can-do attitude. Her retirement in September left big shoes to fill, but we were able to hire the equally talented Yasmin Howell who hit the ground running. Longtime faculty member Dr. Ken Williamson retired this year after more than sixteen years of extraordinary service, while we added two new Geography and Geospatial Sciences faculty members, Dr. Olagoke Daramola who specializes in geomatics and hydrography and Dr. Jielu "Jenny" Zhang whose work in GeoAI applied to healthcare are welcome additions to the team.

The department saw tremendous gains in student credit hour production, retention rates, general education offerings, grades, and degrees conferred. These student success metrics ensure sustainable programs preparing students as workforce-ready engaged global citizens. These positive outcomes are due to our amazing department faculty who participated in more than 230 professional development activities this year including Dr. Susan Smith serving as an Honors Teaching Fellow in the Journey Honors College and Dr. Vanessa Slinger-Friedman serving as a CETL Faculty Fellow for Teaching Excellence in Sustainable Communities. The number of high impact practice courses taught this year almost doubled since last year, many of which resulted in students presenting their research at academic conferences.

The department had more than \$130,000 in research expenditure and secured \$168,533 in new state-of-the-art surveying and mapping equipment. This investment in infrastructure resulted in faculty receiving close to half million dollars in total research support and publishing 20 articles and book chapters alongside 52 academic conference presentations. Finally, congratulations to Vanessa Slinger-Friedman, Paul McDaniel, and myself for being named Radow College “top researchers” by the Office of Research.

-Brandon D. Lundy, Chair

Bon voyage



We celebrated the retirement of Susanne Rothery, our fabulous Academic Program Support Specialist, on September 30, 2025. Susanne has been nothing short of amazing, and we are not sure what we are going to do without her. Bon voyage, Susanne! We will miss you!



After more than sixteen years of extraordinary service to Kennesaw State University, **Dr. Kenneth M. Williamson** retired as a nationally and internationally respected activist-scholar and transformative teacher whose impact will endure well beyond the classroom. Having achieved rank of Full Professor of Anthropology with joint appointments in Interdisciplinary Studies and Geography and Anthropology, and longtime leader in Black Studies, Dr. Williamson distinguished himself through groundbreaking scholarship on Black social movements, Black women's activism in Brazil, and anti-Black racism, publishing influential work in leading journals and edited volumes while presenting at major conferences around the world. A Fulbright-Hays awardee and recipient of multiple university, college, and departmental honors including KSU's Diversity and Inclusion Award, he has been widely recognized for integrating research, teaching, and community engagement in ways that advance social justice and global learning. Over his career, he taught more than 160 course sections across Anthropology, African and African Diaspora Studies, Black Studies, Gender and Women's Studies, and Honors, mentored dozens of undergraduate and graduate researchers, guided students into graduate programs and professional careers, and modeled what it means to be a generous and principled mentor. His extensive service from program coordination and faculty governance to international community advocacy with Black women's organizations in Brazil reflects a career defined by leadership, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to social justice. Dr. Williamson leaves KSU with a legacy of intellectual rigor, global engagement, and human-centered scholarship that has profoundly shaped students, colleagues, and communities alike.

New Faculty and Staff



Jielu (Jenny) Zhang is a new Assistant Professor of Geography and Geospatial Sciences at Kennesaw State University and an Associate Editor of the *International Journal of Health Geographics*. She earned her Ph.D. in Geography and M.S. in Computer Science from the University of Georgia and previously worked as a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University's Center for Geographic Analysis. Her research focuses on explainable geospatial artificial intelligence, spatial machine learning, and causal inference, with applications in geospatial health science, healthcare accessibility, and health disparities. She also studies spatial knowledge graphs, large language models, and optimization methods for emergency response and health-

resource allocation. Her work has appeared in journals including the *International Journal of Geographical Information Science* and the *Journal of the American Heart Association*, as well as at leading computer science conferences such as SIGIR and NeurIPS. She is excited to join the department and contribute to its research, teaching, and service missions.



Olagoke E. Daramola earned his Ph.D. in Marine Science (Hydrography) from The University of Southern Mississippi, where he also obtained the internationally recognized FIG/IHO/ICA Category "A" Certificate in Hydrography. He holds both M.Sc. and B.Sc. degrees in Surveying and Geoinformatics from the University of Lagos, Nigeria. His research integrates remote sensing, photogrammetry, and hydrography to investigate landscape evolution and fluvial and marine geophysical and geomorphological processes.

His work leverages advanced geospatial technologies, including LiDAR, InSAR, GNSS, sonar, GIS, and geospatial data analytics, to develop innovative approaches for Earth observation, terrain analysis, and environmental monitoring. Dr. Daramola is passionate about interdisciplinary research, student mentorship, and collaborative scholarship, and looks forward to contributing to the teaching, research, and service missions of the Department of Geography and Anthropology at Kennesaw State University.



Raul Basilio is a cultural anthropologist who received his Ph.D. from the University of Georgia. His research examines the intersections of environmental degradation, social inequality, and human–animal relations in unequal urban landscapes. His NSF-funded doctoral research, conducted in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, explored how residents of gated communities and favelas experience and respond to environmental contamination. Raul employs ethnographic fieldwork, archival research, and collaborative visual methods to examine how social inequality,

infrastructure, and multispecies life intersect. His broader research interests include urban political ecology, environmental and social justice, multispecies ethnography, environmental contamination, and Latin America.



Yasmin Howell is our newest Academic Program Support Specialist. Ten months into her role, she is thriving and helping to support the department's curricular needs and programming. She has worked in higher ed for over 12 years off-and-on and enjoys the environment that fosters her creativity to help solve problems. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family and traveling internationally!

Awards

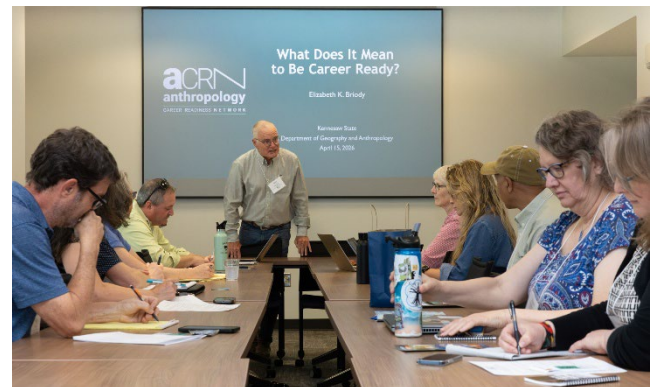


The Geography and Geospatial Sciences Programs were selected by the USG as the recipient of the [2025 Regents' Teaching Excellence Awards for Department or Program](#) for their use of experiential learning, collaborative research, field studies, and internships (e.g., NASA, CDC) to prepare students for real-world challenges.

Kennesaw State Anthropology was selected for the

Departmental Advisory Initiative (DAI)

Award, a partnership formed between the Anthropology Career Readiness Network (ACRN), American Anthropological Association (AAA), and Consortium of Practicing and Applied Anthropologists (COPAA) of the Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA). This award funds facilitated



discussions to identify strategies for integrating career readiness into the curriculum and supports developing and executing a career readiness implementation plan connecting the curriculum to the workplace by honing students' professionalization skills.



Congratulations to Dr. Paul McDaniel, Professor of Geography, on receiving the **Southeastern Geographer 2025 Best Paper Award** from the editors of the *Southeastern Geographer*, the peer-reviewed scholarly journal of the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers (SEDAAG), for his article publication,

“Representation of the American South in North American Regional Geography Textbooks in the Twenty-First Century” (published in *Southeastern Geographer* volume 65, number 1, Spring 2025). This award is given for an outstanding article published in the *Southeastern Geographer* within the last year. The award was presented by the editors of the *Southeastern Geographer* and the President of SEDAAG at the SEDAAG 80th Annual Meeting, in Lexington, Kentucky.

Congratulations to Drs. Vanessa Slinger-Friedman and Brandon D. Lundy on receiving the [2025 Apex Award](#) from the Kennesaw State University Office of Research. The Apex Awards honor the top three researchers from each college. Dr. Paul McDaniel has been named as a **Top 5 Researcher** in Radow College by the Office of Research in 2026. McDaniel also received the **2025 IARSLCE Publication of the Year Award** for his Special Issue on “Immigration and Immigrant Community Engagement” in the *Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship* by the International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement (IARSLCE).

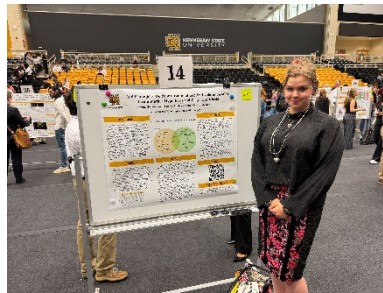
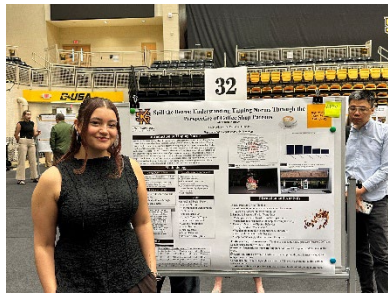
Ten (10) department faculty were recognized for their [innovative pedagogy](#), more than any other department in the college. Department faculty received 5 Advocate and 23 Innovator recognitions as part of the CETL Expanding the NEST (Nurturing Environments through Scholarly Teaching) initiative to document engaged teaching and promote student success.

Congrats to Grace Blomberg (Geography), Kaylee Clark (Anthropology), and Damian Martinez Gonzalez (Mechanical Engineering) on winning the **Outstanding Student Oral Paper award** at the **Georgia Academy of Science 2026 Conference**, Science Education Section. The research team also included faculty mentors and research collaborators Drs. Vanessa Slinger-Friedman and Alice Gooding. Their project (Virtual Learning Labs: Enhancing Student Engagement and Experiential Learning) explored how interactive virtual tours using immersive 360 technology can expand access to hands-on learning experiences and support student engagement in spaces like OwlSwap, the KSU Food Forest, and the Forensic Anthropology Field Lab (FAFL). The research was supported by the Intradepartmental Research Initiative grant.



Congratulations to undergraduate student researchers Sean Clark (Geospatial Sciences), James Greer (Geospatial Sciences), Edward Whitehurst (Environmental Science), and Caillou Guzman (Aerospace Engineering), on winning first place for the **top undergraduate research presentation**, "3D Visualization of a Local

Freshwater Reservoir Using Terrestrial LiDAR (Laser Scanner)," at the **Spring 2026 Symposium of Student Scholars** at Kennesaw State University. Dr. Ranbir Kang, Assistant Professor of Geography and Geospatial Sciences, served as faculty mentor on their project. The team's project, part of the First-Year Scholars Program, used a laser scanning tool called LiDAR to create a detailed 3D model of the dam at Frey Lake in Kennesaw. The team scanned the reservoir 37 times from different locations, producing more than 800 million data points. This work provides a new lens to look at freshwater landscape by curating high-resolution spatial data that different agencies can use to manage those landscapes. Read more [here](#).



High Impact Practices

Students participating in credit-bearing directed applied research, directed studies, practicums, or internships increased to 131 students (+14.9%). Department courses identified as HIPs increased to 84 (+47%). The department had 15 students present undergraduate research at the Student Scholar Symposium. An additional 11 students presented at other regional conferences including third place winner at the GGA Virtual Map Competition and two undergraduate best paper prizes at the Georgia Academy of Science (GAS).



Dr. Susan Smith ran a Greece study abroad trip that challenged our students to tell stories of the past through human remains. "The students get both the research and the study abroad experience while helping the people of Greece uncover their history." A group of anthropology students were in Greece this summer researching human skeletal remains dating from the



fifth to seventh centuries to uncover clues about how people lived. Read more about the students and their research [here](#).



The Material Life of Museums Maymester course taught by Dr. Teresa Raczek brought students to 10 museums this summer where they met with more than 20 professionals to learn about museum careers. Sites visited included Etowah Mounds, Savoy Automobile Museum, National Center for Civil and Human Rights, Tellus Science Museum, Booth Western Art Museum, Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, KSU Museum of History & Holocaust Education, and KSU Rare Books (KSU Bentley Rare Book Museum). This is a tremendous opportunity for students to map out career paths, identify internship opportunities, and discover opportunities for future employment.



Christian Sousa, a senior majoring in Geospatial Sciences with a concentration in land surveying and a minor in biology, was [featured](#) in an article by KSU Norman J. Radow College of Humanities and Social Sciences. "I was looking for anything related to geography, but I found Geospatial Sciences, and there was ... everything lit up on the check marks," Sousa said. "I immediately fell in love and [was] extremely interested in everything it has to offer." He describes the field of geospatial science as "modernized cartography." Instead of drawing maps by hand, the program teaches students how to use geospatial technologies, including remote sensing, land surveying, and Geographic Information System (GIS). KSU GSS students go on to use their skills in various career fields, which range from military science to crime analysis and urban planning.

Research

Department faculty received 18 internal and 7 external funding awards in the amount of \$415,151.99 from Affordable Learning Georgia, National Science Foundation, Alphawood Foundation, AS&G Archaeological Consulting, and the United States Department of Agriculture. Faculty published 4 book chapters, 16 journal articles, and 52 conference presentations (16 local; 10 state/regional; 15 national; 11 international).

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- King, A., Deere, B., Dye, D., Powis, T. G., Gaikwad, N. (2025). "A Datura Ritual Complex in the Southeast." *American Antiquity* 90(4): 619-633. <https://doi.org/10.1017/aaq.2024.40>.
- Lundy, B. D., Pullen, N. H., Gossmann, S., Patterson, M. W., Monteiro, E. D.L., Gonçalves, M. d. L. S., Swahn, M. (2026). "Compliance and Craft: Grogue Labels as Representations of Regulation, Place-Based Identity, and Authenticity." *Journal of Cultural Geography* 43(2): 263-289. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08873631.2026.2638604>.
- McDaniel, P. N. (2025). "Representation of the American South in North American Regional Geography Textbooks in the Twenty-First Century." *Southeastern Geographer* 65(1): 4-32. <https://doi.org/10.1353/sgo.0.a934475>.
- McDaniel, P. N. (2025). "Virtual Pre-Site Visits and Geovisual Narratives: A Pedagogical Approach to Geographic and Digital Literacy in Study Abroad." *The Geography Teacher* 22(4): 174-181. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19338341.2025.2505511>.
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- Patterson, M. W., and Raczek, T. P. (2025). "Comparing effectiveness of teaching interventions in online lab-based physical geography general education courses." *Journal of Geography in Higher Education* 49 (2): 269-286. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03098265.2024.2403084>.

- Pullen, N. H. (2025). "Sustainability in the craft brewing industry. In *Craft Beer: Frontiers in Brewing Science*, 231-256. Academic Press. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-443-16015-8.00011-3>.
- Raczek, T. P. (2026). "Seeing black and red: Refining chronologies of a complicated pottery type." *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 69: 105544. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jasrep.2025.105544>.
- Raczek, T. P., Shirvalkar, P., Pandey, L., Prasad, E. (2025). "Rescue Excavation at Pachamta, an Ahar Chalcolithic Site in Rajasthan: A New Understanding of Administration." *Ancient Asia* 16: 91-120. <https://doi.org/10.47509/AA.2025.v16i.7>.
- Tu, J. (2025). "Exploring Spatially Varying Associations of COVID-19 Rates with Contextual Socioeconomic, Health, and Environmental Factors under Partial Population Coverage of Vaccination: A Retrospective Ecological Study in Georgia, USA." *Prevention Science* 26: 1205–1221. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11121-025-01849-0>.



Mentored by Dr. Teresa Raczek, senior Anthropology students Claire Baker and Samantha Keck worked closely with community partners at Old Ebenezer Cemetery, in Marietta, Georgia, to survey, map, and locate unmarked graves. Their research supports restoration efforts for the cemetery. Claire presented her community-based research on the Old Ebenezer Cemetery at the Southern Anthropological Society Annual Meeting.

Geography student Lauren Collop completed a project on "Deaths of Despair in Georgia." She revealed the urban-rural disparities in county-level mortality rates of drug overdoses and suicides, and their associations with socioeconomic and health factors in Georgia during 2019-2024 using GIS (Geographic Information Systems) and statistical analyses. She presented the research at the KSU Fall 2025 Symposium of Student Scholars. This is an example of undergraduate research projects that can be conducted by students in our Geography and Geospatial Sciences (GSS) programs to apply geospatial technologies in public health studies. The research was supervised by Dr. Jun Tu, Professor of Geography and Geospatial Sciences. You can read the details of the research from the [StoryMap](#).

New Department Infrastructure

The department invested in faculty conference travel to support research dissemination, academic memberships to expand professional networks, seed funding to promote

intradisciplinary research (e.g., “Using Geospatial Technologies and Flipped Classrooms Approaches to Teach Biogeography and Historical Geography Fieldwork”; “Enhancing Engagement and Learning Through Immersive Virtual Tours of KSU Living Learning Labs”), and the purchasing of lab and research equipment. The department spent more than \$130K on research expenditures and secured \$168,533 from the college for the purchase of new state-of-the-art surveying and mapping equipment. Department faculty fundraised \$5,403.36 from department stakeholders to support department programming and raised an additional \$1,075 from 13 donors on KSU’s Giving Day. The William W. Davidson International Archaeology Endowed Scholarship added \$3,000 in donations totaling approximately \$30,000. Faculty also fundraised more than \$2,750 to support GSS Night.

Community Engagement

The department increased hosted events to 22 with 735 participants. Events included department welcome back, retirement celebration, UnCANny Creations, GSS Night, programmatic open houses, Fridays at the Food Forest, Drone Flight Day, and OwlSwap Sustainability Film Series. The department continues to support six student clubs including the Student Anthropology Club, Geography Club, EcoOwls, and two honors societies. These organizations provide opportunities for students to connect with peers, develop leadership skills, and engage in extracurricular activities.



The KSU Geospatial Sciences program and the Mu Upsilon chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon International Geographical Honor Society, in collaboration with the Georgia Geospatial Association (GGA) Drone Group, celebrated Earth Week with a Drone Flight Day at the KSU Field Station on Monday, April 20, 2026. Around 50 KSU alumni, students, and faculty, along with various industry professionals, came together for a day of

cutting-edge presentations and live demonstrations. KSU alumni Brody Baer and Tyler Nuttall worked with KSU professor Dr. Nancy Hoalst-Pullen to organize presentations and demonstrations, which included KSU Alum and Duncan-Parnell UAS Sales Rep James Lawrence presenting and demonstrating the new WingtraRAY platform, and Dr. Adeel Khalid and his multidisciplinary research group from KSU’s AERO lab presenting and demonstrating their advanced autonomous flight systems.



KSU's GSS Night at Horned Owl Brewery on November 10, 2025, had 120 guests. Sponsors included GeoSurvey, TerraMark, Edwards-Pitman, InterDev, Cox & Co, and Atlas Surveying. This annual event is an opportunity to celebrate our students, and to connect students with alumni, faculty, and community partners for networking. Thank you to all those who attended, the sponsors who made the

event possible, and the guest speakers including Dean Katie Kaukinen. Awards given out included: Brody Baer, Rebecca Mattord Outstanding Achievement Award (for Alumni); GeoSurvey, Community Partner Award; Tristan Bollenbaugh, Best GSS Degree Student; Kaylee Padilla, Best Land Surveying Certificate Student; and Ed Graham, Best GIS Certificate Student.



Dr. Terry Powis welcomed between 120-130 people of all ages to International Archaeology Day at the Cummings Site, located in Cartersville, Georgia. Attendees included current and former Kennesaw State University students along with their families and many others from across Bartow County and beyond. We partnered with the Bartow History Institute, Etowah Valley Historical Society, Greater Atlanta Archaeological Society, and the Bartow History Museum.

Our very own Dr. Terry Powis spent the week of July 6, 2026, bringing history to life for the next generation of archaeologists. Dr. Powis led an intensive, 30-hour archaeology summer camp in partnership with the City of Euharlee. The team kicked off day one with 40 incredible campers (ages 4–11) who were eager to roll up



their sleeves, learn excavation basics, and get their hands dirty. They were working next to the iconic Euharlee Covered Bridge. The most exciting news? On day one, the camp had already uncovered the remains of a historic building. This is exactly what public archaeology is all about, bridging the gap between local history, scientific discovery, and community engagement. We are incredibly proud of Dr. Powis for his dedication to community outreach and inspiring future researchers.



KSU Anthropology participated once again in the Atlanta Science Festival Expo 2026 in Piedmont Park in Atlanta. This event exposes thousands of community members to biological anthropology by demonstrating the relevance of anthropology and showcasing



KSU's amazing students and faculty to thousands of Atlantans.



The KSU Food Forest hosted 13 volunteer events that engaged 234 participants (+32%), who contributed a total of 697 service hours. The Food Forest sustained its partnership with KSU CARE Services by providing fresh, nutritious produce to students experiencing food insecurity. It also served as a Living Learning Lab, supporting applied learning. Through a USDA SARE grant (SAFE: Sustainable Agriculture for Food, the Environment, and Economic Opportunities), the program expanded in 2026 by extending and replicating its sustainable agriculture model. Educational outputs included online modules,

interactive tours, and workshops. Hundreds of plants were propagated and donated to community food forests, including new installations at Habitat for Humanity and expanded plantings at Price Middle School.



In 2025, the sustainable clothing initiative OwlSwap hosted 31 events (+9%), and partnered with KSU CARE, MUST Ministries, Coles Fin Tech, the Austell Police Department, and KSU's Women in Tech. OwlSwap also supported Allatoona High School in establishing a student clothing closet. The initiative held 11 swap and sorting events engaging 213 student volunteers. From 2024 to

2025, closet use nearly tripled, reflecting growing awareness and demand. Closet visitors increased from 889 to 2,534 (+185%). Swap participation rose by nearly 400 swappers, a 44% increase. Donated items grew from 6,517 (valued at \$49,394) to 9,772 (valued at \$71,627). Outgoing recirculation increased from 3,966 items valued at \$29,771 in 2024 to 7,033 items valued at \$51,982 in 2025.

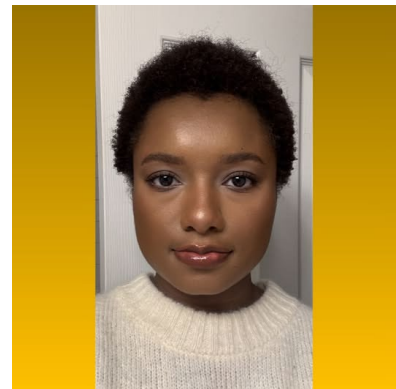
Alumni News



Congratulations to KSU Anthropology alumni Chris Goden who just completed his Ph.D. in forensic anthropology at The Ohio State University School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. Dr. Goden will be starting at Mississippi State University as an Assistant Professor this fall and will also serve as one of two forensic anthropologists for Mississippi.

Dani Alexander-Burk discussed how being queer and studying anthropology has helped them in their job. Dani is an award-winning community advocate with a passion for forging meaningful relationships. They joined Lambda Legal, the country's oldest and largest LGBTQ+ legal nonprofit in 2021, currently serving as the national Corporate Partnerships Manager.

Anthropology alumna Najiyah Williams published her first article in the Proceedings of the Southern Anthropological Society, "[Before the Gravestones: Uncovering the Past of the Jonesville Historic African American Cemetery.](#)"



Looking Forward

In the coming year ahead, the Department of Geography and Anthropology will (1) Embed career readiness as a core feature of the undergraduate experience building on the ACRN workshop and recommendations incorporating applied skills and career-relevant outcomes into course syllabi and improving alumni engagement. Alumni Sami Wilson is scheduled to speak in the Professionals with Purpose series as manager of Red Top Mountain State Park on Lake Allatoona, one of Georgia's most popular state parks. (2) Revitalize the Geography BA through strategic recruitment, student progression, and a focus on sustainability throughout the curriculum. Reduce scheduling barriers such as language requirements to better align the program with student demand and market expectations. See what the department and Geography program are up to through this exciting [video](#). (3) Strengthen research capacity and scholarly productivity through intradepartmental seed funding, writing accountability groups, and mentorship activities. (4) Advance community engagement and operational sustainability by continuing to build on existing departmental infrastructure, events, and partnerships such as EcoOwls, Film Sustainability Series, KSU Food Forest, OwlSwap, Drone Day, GSS Night, and much more.



1 STUDENT SUCCESS



63
DEGREES
AWARDED IN
2024



79
DEGREES
AWARDED IN
2025

+25%
INCREASE
FROM 2024
TO 2025



AVERAGE TIME TO DEGREE

5.3
YEARS
2024



5.2
YEARS
2025

↓ 0.1
YEAR
DECREASE

GA GEN ED ENROLLMENT (FY)

2024	5,904
2025	6,564

↑ +11%
INCREASE

GA GEN ED AVG. ABC RATES (%)

2024	85.18
2025	89.10

↑ +3.92
POINTS
INCREASE



GA has **7 courses** in the **Core IMPACTS** general education curriculum including 5 courses in Technology, Mathematics, and Sciences and 2 courses in Social Sciences. These are departmental-level critical courses because they provide prerequisite knowledge for majors and service a large segment of KSU's student body. GA serves roughly **5,000 students** per year through gen ed generating more than **20,000 credit hours annually**, with approximately **1 out of every 10 students** at KSU taking a GA course each year.



Curricular Efficiencies/Advancements/Innovation:

GA class fill rates are consistently above 90%: 2024 (94%); 2025 (92%); 2026 (91%). GA maintains **mixed** course modalities with 28% offered in face-to-face or hybrid formats in 2024 and 30% in 2025.



Student Success Initiatives: GA Midterm Grade submission rates improved: Fall 2024 (86%), Spring 2025 (96%), Fall 2025 (99.69%), Spring 2026 (100%).



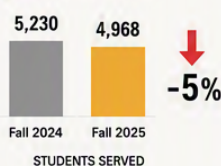
In AY 2024, GA hosted **255** course sections, **63** of which were taught by **part-time/limited** term faculty (**25%**). In AY 2025, GA hosted **261** course sections, **81** of which were taught by part-time/limited term faculty (**31%**).



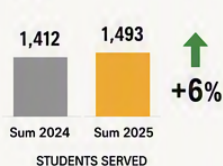
2 ENROLLMENT AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT



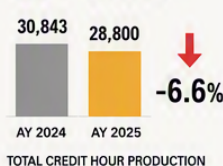
UNDERGRADUATE (FALL TERMS)



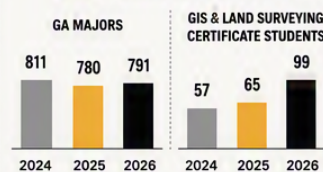
SUMMER (UG)



STUDENT CREDIT HOURS (AY TOTAL)



MAJORS AND CERTIFICATE STUDENTS



RETENTION RATES (COHORT AVERAGES)

82%
YEAR 1 TO YEAR 2

58%
INTO YEAR 3

38%
3-YEAR RETENTION



GRADUATION RATES (COHORT AVERAGES)

48%
4-YEAR

69%
BY YEAR 8



3 INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS



CREDIT-BEARING APPLIED LEARNING (Undergraduate Students)

114 → **131**
AY 2024 AY 2025
+14.9%
INCREASE



HIGH-IMPACT COURSES (HIPs)

57 → **84**
AY 2024-25 AY 2025-26
+47%
INCREASE



STUDENT SCHOLAR SYMPOSIUM (Undergraduate Research)

15 → **15**
AY 2024-25 AY 2025-26
STUDENTS PRESENTED
BOTH YEARS



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AT REGIONAL CONFERENCES

11 STUDENTS PRESENTED
AT OTHER REGIONAL
CONFERENCES
✓ 3rd place winner at the
GGA Virtual Map Competition
✓ 2 undergraduate best paper prizes
at the Georgia Academy of Science (GAS)



The Department of Geography and Anthropology remains committed to **student success**, **innovative curriculum**, and **impactful engagement** across Kennesaw State University.



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