GEOGRAPHY

The Department of Geography offers a comprehensive program of study leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree. Graduates of the program have completed a liberal arts education that serves as the foundation for further academic study in disciplines addressing geographic, environmental and international issues or for professional fields such as planning, public policy, law and environmental management.

WHAT IS GEOGRAPHY?
Geography is unique in bridging the social sciences and the natural sciences. Geography is the study of the physical features of the Earth as well as human activity and how it relates spatially to the environment in which we live. Geographers use Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Remote Sensing, Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and online mapping as tools for increasing our understanding of the world.

DEGREES/CONCENTRATIONS

BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.) IN GEOGRAPHY
Students may choose between three concentrations: Environmental Studies, Geospatial Applications and Global Studies.

- **Environmental Studies:** emphasizing physical geography and environmental resources management.
- **Geospatial Applications:** emphasizing technical skills in geographic information systems (GIS), remote sensing, map use and interpretation, cartography and statistical analysis.
- **Global Studies:** emphasizing international and regional human geography. Regional emphases in the department include Latin America, Africa, Europe and Canada in addition to the United States.

For those pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Education (B.S.E.) with a major in Secondary Education Social Studies, students may elect a concentration in Geography.

MINOR
The Department of Geography offers four minors: Environmental Studies, Geospatial Applications, Global Studies and General Geography.

OPPORTUNITIES
Faculty members are actively engaged in community-based research. Geography students will find many opportunities for participating in research as part of their coursework, as a volunteer outside of class or as a student conducting related research for an independent thesis. Recent opportunities have included mapping stormwater infrastructure and detecting illicit discharges in central Lancaster County, mapping and measuring the reflectivity of street signs for local municipalities, developing a GIS of Millersville University, crime analysis in the City of Lancaster and monitoring water quality in local streams and rivers.

HONORS AND RECOGNITION
In 2015, the Department of Geography was one of a group of organizations that received the Governor’s Award for Local Government Excellence in Intergovernmental Cooperation for the MU-LIMC Outfall Mapping Project. More than 25 students mapped and monitored stormwater outfalls doing more than 300 miles of streams and rivers in Lancaster County.
CLUBS

Millersville University Geography Club: The Geography Club is open to any Millersville University student with an interest in geography and the environment. Throughout the semester students participate in various activities, events and serve the community. The Geography Club has recently attended and participated in the Association of American Geographers Annual Conference, community clean-up days, local geo-caching trips and whitewater rafting. This is a great opportunity to meet new people, network, have fun, learn and explore!

FACILITIES

The Geo-Graphics Laboratory is used as the teaching classroom for Geography 292 (Quantitative Methods), Geography 295 (GIS), Geography 384 (Cartography) and a number of experimental courses including Advanced GIS and Remote Sensing. This laboratory is also used to support research projects of individual faculty and faculty-mentored student research, as well as contract research. The Geo-Graphics Laboratory functions as a dedicated space for students in geography courses only. Group and individual tutoring are offered weekly.

CAREERS

Geographers work in a wide variety of disciplines in physical and human geography. Geographers very rarely hold the job title of “geographer,” but geographers may be employed as cartographers, city or urban planners, climatologists, natural resource managers, GIS analysts, transportation planners, policy analysts and emergency management professionals. More than half of all geographers are employed by the federal government.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Christian Wells received a BA in Geography, Geospatial Applications in 2011 from Millersville University. While at MU, he also pursued minors in Economics and Fine Arts, and he wrote a senior honors thesis on residential income segregation in Philadelphia. Christian then went on to Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where he completed an MS in Geography (GIS) in 2013. He is currently a Senior Geodatabase Analyst for Esri, the international supplier of GIS software, web GIS, and geodatabase management applications, in Redlands, Cal. He works to provide advanced support and solutions to enterprise organizations in complex, mission-critical spatial database environments. Christian writes, "I enjoy helping people make spatial decisions that directly influence our world. I love using new technology that constantly pushes the boundaries of spatial understanding.” Christian suggests that current students “go to as many conferences or events that you can. Actively participate by presenting posters or research. Participate in an internship. This will increase your network and build your resume for future opportunities. Be active in social media. This will give insight to current trends and topics, as well as connecting with peers.”