

Faculty Member Contact Information

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Contact Info	
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Department	Geography

1 Funded, 2 Unfunded URCA Assistant(s)

Are you willing to work with students from outside of your discipline? If yes, which other disciplines?

- Yes

How many hours per week will your student(s) be required to work in this position?
(Minimum is 6 hours per week; typical is 9)

- 6-8

Will it be possible for your student(s) to earn course credit?

- Yes, in GEOG 490: Independent Study for 1-3 credit hours credit hours.

Location of research/creative activities:

- Assistants can work at a location of their choosing (e.g., at home, on campus).

Brief description of the nature of the research/creative activity?

- This project seeks to understand the cultural landscape of botanical gardens in the United States. Botanical gardens house collections of plants for multiple purposes, including research, conservation, exhibition, and education (BGCI, n.d.). Many botanical gardens include sub-gardens that focus on a specific plant (e.g., hostas), region (e.g., Japan), or type of garden (e.g., pollinator). Arguably, botanical gardens shape visitors' understanding of places. The decisions about which plants, regions, or garden types to exhibit communicate, intentionally or not, the importance of some biological and cultural landscapes over others. Little research has considered the geography of botanical gardens. This project considers the following questions: (1) what plants, regions, or garden types are prioritized and (2) what spatial and temporal differences exist among American botanical gardens?

Brief description of student responsibilities?

- Assistant responsibilities include (1) updating the database of botanical gardens to reflect new additions in 2026 and (2) assisting in analyzing garden data. A URCA assistant from past semesters worked on compiling a database of 378 gardens. Some new gardens need to be added to the database to keep it up-to-date. Most of the assistant's focus will be helping to analyze the data to identify spatial and temporal patterns.

URCA Assistant positions are designed to provide students with *research or creative activities* experience. As such, there should be measurable, appropriate outcome goals. What exactly should your student(s) have learned by the end of this experience?

- URCA assistants will gain experience in (a) compiling and maintaining a database and (b) using qualitative methods to analyze data.

Requirements of Students

If the position(s) require students to be available at certain times each week (as opposed to them being able to set their own hours) please indicate all required days and times:

- The work schedule is flexible; there are no specific meeting times for this position.

If the location of the research/creative activities involves off campus work, must students provide their own transportation?

- N/A

Must students have taken any prerequisite classes? Please list classes and preferred grades:

- N/A

Other requirements or notes to applicants: