

Christina Dennis *cldennis@wisc.edu*

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin-Madison

M.S./Ph.D. in Geography

Advisor: Holly Gibbs

Expected Graduation 2027

Bachelor of Arts in Cartography & GIS with Honors

Senior Honors Thesis: *Incorporating a User-Centered Design Approach into Mapping the Cultural and Natural Resources of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway*

Graduated: **2022**

CURRENT RESEARCH AND WORK

Gibbs Global Land-Use and Environment Lab (GLUE) *Jan 2023 to Present*

RESEARCH ANALYST AND ASSISTANT

- Built a national property-level database with tax parcel data
- Conducting research on US private property conservation practices
- Mentoring undergraduate research intern to map national level conservation data
- Mentoring undergraduate honors student for property-level US grassland conversion research

Accountability Framework Initiative *Jan 2025 to Present*

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

- Conducting a literature review of global non-forest ecosystem valuations for supply chain conversion paper and reports

Andrew Stevens Agricultural Economics Lab *Sept 2023 to Present*

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

- Developed a database of Wisconsin farms through time using property data-pipeline from tax parcels

OTHER RESEARCH GIS CARTOGRAPHY EXPERIENCE

Wisconsin State Cartographer's Office

RESEARCH SPECIALIST **Sept 2022 to Sept 2023**

- Led vulnerability assessments with stakeholders in Ashland Co, WI for locally contextual flood risk data
- Disaggregated data with dasymetric mapping to create flood risk geodatabase
- Created online web tool and documentation for local stakeholders to recreate the process
- Led routine field work using web tools for validation

STUDENT INTERN **Sept 2021 to May 2022**

- Developed the Wisconsin Historical Atlas using a combination of ESRI software and ArcGIS Online
- Created custom interactive web maps and apps using HTML, CSS, JS, and other frameworks
- Geodesy project lead for external clients
- Madison Oak Mapping map creator for external client

NASA DEVELOP, Science Systems and Applications Inc.

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY TEAM MEMBER **May 2022 to Aug 2022**

- Incorporated NASA Earth Observations and other remote sensing products to help the City of Albuquerque plan their tree planting initiative to reduce urban heat
- Led the modelling and map creation of heat risk mitigation maps and data

- Selected as team representative to present project findings at NASA headquarters in D.C.

Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute/UW Cartography Lab

GIS STUDENT INTERN AND RESEARCH SPECIALIST **Sept 2021 to Aug 2022**

- Used LiDAR data, ArcPro, GeoPlanner, Story Maps to analyze to plan Green Infrastructure practices
- Updated coastal access point data for Wisconsin Coastal Access Inventory using Excel, AGOL, ArcPro
- Designed Field Maps form to aid Coastal Inventory field workers
- At Cart Lab: Made maps for Coast Access Inventory book

Senior Honors Thesis BILL GARTNER PHD, ADVISOR **Jan 2021 to May 2022**

- Used User-Centered Design methods in cartography to create 40x20 thematic map of Lower Wisconsin Riverway
- Created and monitored online survey to involve end-users in creation process
- Held community meetings along the riverway to meet with local users

AWARDS and PRESENTATIONS

- JUNE 2025 **Presenter** NWF America's Grasslands Conference Kearney NE
- APRIL 2025 **Honorable Mention** NSF GRFP Awards
- APRIL 2025 **Selected For Display** Design Lab 2025 Digital Salon Exhibition UW-Madison
- MARCH 2025 **Trusted Reviewer Status** IOP Publishing
- JANUARY 2025 **Poster Presenter** GLBRC Annual Review Madison WI
- MAY 2024 **Poster Presenter** GLBRC Annual Science Meeting Lake Geneva WI
- MARCH 2024 **Presenter** 14th Annual St Louis River Summit Superior WI
- MARCH 2024 **Lightning Talk Presenter** SAGE-CCR Lightning Talk event Madison WI
- FEBRUARY 2024 **Poster Presenter** UW Data in Action Research Bazaar Madison WI
- OCTOBER 2023 **Presenter** West Lakes Division AAG, Chicago IL
- OCTOBER 2023 **Map Presenter** NACIS Annual Conference, Pittsburgh PA
- SEPTEMBER 2023 **Grant Recipient** UW Geography Trewartha Research Grant Madison WI
- MAY 2023 **Poster Presenter** GLBRC Annual Science Meeting, Lake Geneva WI
- FEBRUARY 2023 **Presenter** WI Land Information Association, Annual Conference Wisconsin Dells WI
- JUNE 2022 **Poster Presenter** NASA DEVELOP Final Poster Washington, D.C.
- MAY 2022 **1st Place Winner** Barbara Bartz Petchenik Award for cartographic excellence, UW Geography Department Undergrad Level Madison WI
- FEBRUARY 2022 **Presenter** WI Land Information Association, Annual Conference Elkhart Lake WI
- JUNE 2021 **Grant Recipient** UW College of Letters and Science Summer Honors Thesis Research Grant Madison WI

GRADUATE SERVICE and COURSE TA & GRADER (G) POSITIONS

(TA) GEOGRAPHY 579 GIS AND SPATIAL ANALYSIS **Fall '25**

(G) GEOGRAPHY 342 GEOGRAPHY OF WISCONSIN **Summer '25**

(G) GEOGRAPHY 574 GEOSPATIAL DATABASE DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT **Fall '24**

(G) GEOGRAPHY 170 OUR DIGITAL GLOBE: AN INTRODUCTION OF GISCIENCE AND ITS TECHNOLOGY **Summer '24**

(G) DANCE 168 DANCING GENDER: EMBODIMENT, POLITICS AND FEMINIST THEORY **Fall, Spring '24, Fall, Spring '25**

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE **Grad Student Representative** Sept 2023 to Present

OTHER EXPERIENCES

National Wildlife Federation

CARTOGRAPHER Jan 2023 to Jun 2023

- Created maps of biomass emission facilities in the Mississippi River Basin for an environmental justice publication

UW-Oshkosh ERIC Lab

LAB TECH/CARTOGRAPHER Jun 2021 to Aug 2021

- Performed lab analysis, entered data, performed tests on water samples, digester, compostable products
- Drove entire coast of Door County, WI to search for public access points, used tools to record beach attributes, used QGIS to make a map showing attributes
- Took water samples from local businesses in Vilas County for Vilas County Health Department DNR program (connected to ERIC lab)

NV5 Quantum Spatial

ASSOCIATE TECHNICIAN Nov 2020 to May 2021

- Used Microstation, ArcGIS to edit LiDAR point clouds
- Worked with different versions of lidar tiles to clean up the landscape to send to clients

The River Food Pantry

GIS CONSULTANT Jan 2020

- Conducted GIS Needs Assessment
- Developed interactive content for use in future planning

International Student Conferences

AMERICAN DELEGATE Sept 2020 to Jan 2020

- Member of 1st annual China American Student Association
- Met with appr. 20 students and guest speakers from the US and China to talk about US-China relations

Milwaukee Ballet Company

BALLET DANCER Jun 2016 to Jun 2019

- Danced in 5 company performances annually at the Pabst and Marcus Theatres in Milwaukee
- Daily warm up class and rehearsals to prepare for each show
- Worked in a corps and as an individual with choreographers to learn choreography and bring their visions to the professional stage
- Did outreach to Milwaukee-area schools to provide arts education and awareness

Central Midwest Ballet School, Mad City Aqua Stars, Storybook Ballet

TEACHER/REHEARSAL DIRECTOR/CHOREOGRAPHER 2019 to Present

- Teach kids aged 6-18 ballet technique and choreography
- Choreographed and rehearsed a piece for 2021, 2022 spring showcase
- Lead solo and group rehearsals, takes and gives performance notes at dress rehearsals
- Teach kids aged 3-8 ballet technique and storytelling (at Storybook Ballet 2019)