

# Abel Chikanda

## Assistant Professor

Department of Geography/Department  
of African & African-American Studies  
Univ. of Kansas | USA

My studies at Western helped sharpen my research and analytical skills and provided me with all the necessary tools to succeed in my career as a university professor and researcher.

PhD Geography (2010)



*“The atmosphere in the Western’s Geography department is something that I will forever cherish. I developed lifelong relationships with both fellow graduate students and faculty working in my research area.”*

# Alexandra Fieder

**Sales Representative | RKF | Toronto ON**

Supports the Toronto brokerage team with landlord and tenant representation projects, canvasses Toronto's major retail neighbourhoods in order to maintain the mapping and listing databases, and works directly with landlords and tenants.

*“Geography taught me about not only the physical landscape but a lot about humans and their interaction with the environment around them and this is directly linked to what I do now.”*



**BA Honors in Urban Development (2014)**





# Alexandra Goldstein

**Advisor|Planning and Policy  
Metrolinx|Toronto**

All the geography courses she took, be them cartography, weather and climate, or social geography, added value in her career as a Transportation Planner.

---

*“ Studying Geography at Western brought to light my fascination with how cities function and how important they are in shaping the quality of life of the people who visit or live in them. It was a springboard in driving me to study urban and regional planning.”*

Honors BA Geography (2009)



# BETH NANNI

**Research and Policy Analyst**

**Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development | Edmonton, AB**

Researches, develops and communicates operational policies, procedures and tools supporting provincial goals for public land conservation, sustainability and management

*“Being exposed to the multidisciplinary work of geographers at Western helped shape how I view complex policy issues and an asset to my career.”*



MSc. Geography (2010)





# ANDREW McLELLAN

Honours BSc Geography (2008)



**Andrew  
McLellan's  
Mapping Services**

Uses GIS and field surveys to identify mineral sites in remote areas throughout Canada.

**Toronto**

The skills I learned at Western helped me excel in the workplace. The exchange at Lancaster University (UK) was a highlight.

# BRANDO USHER

Leasing and Development Analyst | Canderel | Toronto ON

Works with the leasing team to secure tenancies for commercial and retail portfolio in the GTA and Southwestern Ontario. He also submits detailed proposals for securing development and/or ownership opportunities.

*“Geography gave me a holistic way of thinking. The way a geographer thinks allows them to look at many different angles (e.g., social, economic, geographic, locational...)”*



**BA Honors in Urban Development (2014)**





**Environmental Private Equity  
Analyst at RFA Capital and Emmitt  
Labs.**

**Combined Degree BA Honors in  
Geography/BA Ivey (2016)**



Creates financial models to value businesses, strategies to penetrate the Cap and Trade market, and solutions to pressing environmental concerns such as greenhouse gas emissions, energy benchmarking and renewable energy development.

**CALEY SAVAGE**

*From essay writing to cartographic mapping, the skills from Geography impact how I deal with clients and data every day. Without such knowledge, I would not have been able to attain the career I now have or be able to understand the connections between the physical and human landscape.*

# CARL OZYER

B.Sc. Geography (ERM) 2001



**Head,  
Earth Information  
Subdivision,  
Geological Survey of  
Canada  
Calgary, AB**

*“Geographic skills are essential in my role in the GSC’s Regional Mapping and GIS work. Western Geography faculty were superb, personal and understanding”.*



# CARLY SALVETTI

*“I love the fact that my courses at Western were small in size so that I could interact more with my professors and peers – these made classes fun and ideal!”*



**Real Estate Professional**  
**RE/MAX Masters Realty**  
West Vancouver, BC

**BA Honors in Urban  
Development 2010**



# CATE Porterfield

**Intermediate Planner  
County of Grande Prairie No. 1  
Clairmont, Alberta**

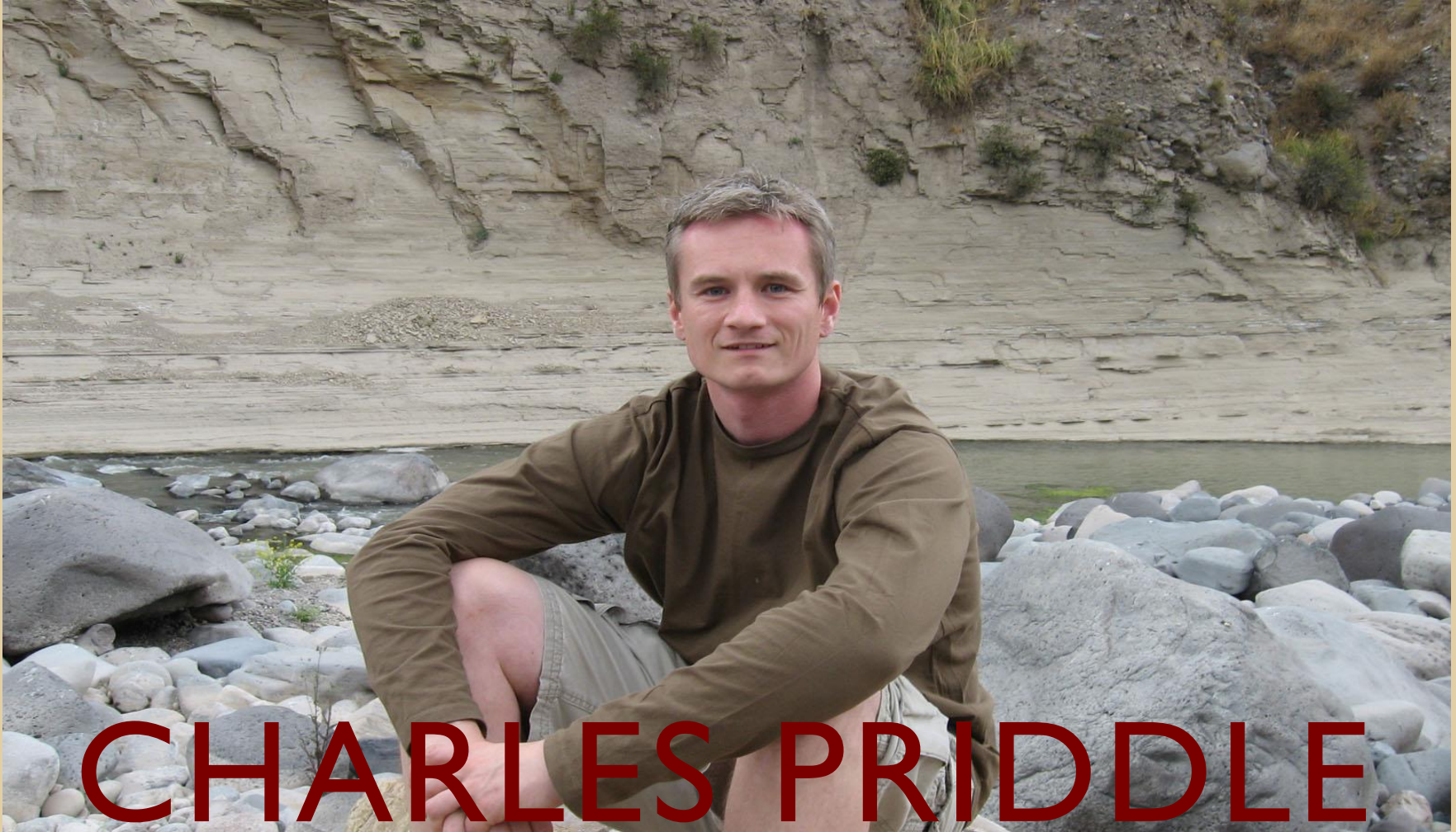
Uses her geography training to review, analyze and prepare reports related to land use planning.

---

*“Geography allows me to interpret the world around me and make effective planning recommendations.”*

BA Geography and Sociology (2007)





# CHARLES PRIDDLE

**Coordinator, Regulations Program  
Halton Region Conservation Authority**



“Geography is the basis of my job – ensuring people and property are protected from natural hazards.”

BA (Geography) 2000

PhD (Geography) 2009

# COLLEEN McCAULEY

**BA (Hons) Geography (ERM) | 1999**



**Owner & Operator,  
Earth to Business Marketing.  
*Provides marketing communications to  
small businesses.***

*“I often use the computer and graphic skills I  
learned in cartography and GIS classes in the  
development of marketing and communication  
materials.”*



# DAN Sandink

*Dan's work is largely in the area of human dimensions of hazards, and how communities can be more resilient after floods occur.*



**Manager, Resilient Communities and Research, Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction | Toronto, Ontario**

*MA Geography (2006)*



# DAVID FENNELL

Professor | Brock University

PhD Geography (1994)



*“Geography at Western prepared me for my job. Accessible faculty provided outstanding support in the classroom and in the field.”*

AAG EDGE Project



# DAWN GOSNEY

Engineering Technical Assistant | Grand River Conservation Authority

Provides technical and administrative support for flood management, liaison with community emergency managers, GIS and database administration and analysis.

*“Western Geography fueled my passion for the environment, motivated me to overcome challenges, and made me competitive in the job market .”*

AAG EDGE Project



**BA Geography (2012)**





# DON LAFRENIERE

**Assistant Professor of  
Historical Geography and GIS  
Department of Social Science and  
Great Lakes Research Center**

***Michigan Tech University***  
Houghton, MI

Ph.D. (2015)

**Western** 

---

***“Western supported  
cutting edge research, and  
a collegial and  
interdisciplinary research  
culture.”***



# EMILY VAN KESTEREN

MA Geography (2012) **Western**  
UNIVERSITY · CANADA 

**Public Health Nurse**

Middlesex London Health Unit

Comments on land use plans to ensure the built environment promotes, among other things, walking, cycling and recreation that promote healthy communities.

*“My Masters taught me the connection between geography and health – the specific built environment characteristics that influence human health, and how to assess and influence policy to have a positive impact on society.”*



# FREDERICK ARMAH



**PhD Geography (2015)**

**Chair,  
Department of Environmental  
Science,  
University of Cape Coast, Ghana**

Frederick uses both qualitative and quantitative techniques to assess relationships between environmental pollution, climate change and adverse human health outcomes.



His PhD was an “opportunity to experience first hand the power of TEAMWORK”

# Hanson Nyantakyi-Frimpong

**Assistant Professor**

**Department of Geography & the Environment, University of Denver**

At UWO Geography, you are forced to connect the dots between theory and real-life problems, and this is the same skill most employers look for.

*“You’re always dealing with dedicated staff, so how can that not be fun? And the faculty – they’re incredibly smart, yet very down-to-earth; they’re world-class scholars who know how to tell jokes.”*



**PhD Geography (2014)**



# IAN HAASE

**Director, Entrepreneurship.  
Western University.**



**BA Geography (Hons) (2003)**



*“My GIS background helped me launch a software company by bringing this unique skillset to the health care industry.”*

# James Toyé

**Aircraft Technical Records Specialist, AV Base Systems | London, ON**



BA Honors Geography and  
Commercial Aviation Management  
(2016)



Creates air operators maintenance programs in an aviation management software system, uploads flight logs, and works with air operators to develop strategies to better manage maintenance on aircraft fleet.

*“The combination of geography and aviation allowed me to incorporate GIS software skills to aviation software. Learning about physical landscapes, maps, meteorology, global markets, and urban environments is very relevant to any career in aviation.*

*The high degree of relevance that geography plays in aviation truly made my university career unique.”*



# JEREMY SCHMIDT

Lecturer,  
Department of Geography,  
Durham University



*“Western provided me with great support to secure top scholarships, research funding and a tenure-track job.”*

PhD Geography (2012)

# JIEN TIAN

**Assistant Professor**  
Clark University  
Worcester, Massachusetts



**MSc Geography (2004)**

*“My time at Western Geography provided me with high quality training in how to conduct scientific research. It also exposed me to the cutting edge research in the field and helped me build the competence in my professional development.”*



# JORDAN TOMPKINS

MA Geography (2009)



**Program Coordinator (Diabetes Team)  
Department of Family Medicine  
Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry  
Western University.**

*“Health geography recognizes and appreciates the role of the environment on people – in the field of diabetes, it’s important to understand the contextual factors that affect an individual’s health.”*





# JOSEPH SHAW

**Managing Director, Real Estate  
Acquisitions at Manulife Financial  
Toronto, Ontario**

Lead acquisitions and dispositions officer with responsibility for both Canadian and U.S. transactions. Pursuing office, industrial, retail and multi-family opportunities.

**BA (UDP) Geography 1992**



AAG EDGE project

*“The knowledge of commercial real estate gained while at UWO rivals that of top international schools.”*



# JULIA ORLOVA

**Water Resources  
Scientist – Stantec  
Consulting Ltd.  
Calgary, AB**

MSc. Geography (2012)



Does hydrologic analysis and modelling, water quality and sediment analysis, and hydrochemical modelling using GIS and field methods.

*“I use the skills developed during my MSc on a daily basis – monitoring water, statistics, geochemistry, GIS.”*

# KUMARI KARUNARATNE

**Manager, Geoscience  
Information Service.  
Northwest Territories,  
Geological Survey.**

**BSc (Geography) 2000**



**Makes geological  
information accessible to  
many people, including  
industrial clients,  
students, government  
agencies, and the public.**



**As a physical geographer, I can see the need to place scientific research in a human context. For example, we must understand the impact of the Residential Schools on the people of NWT.**

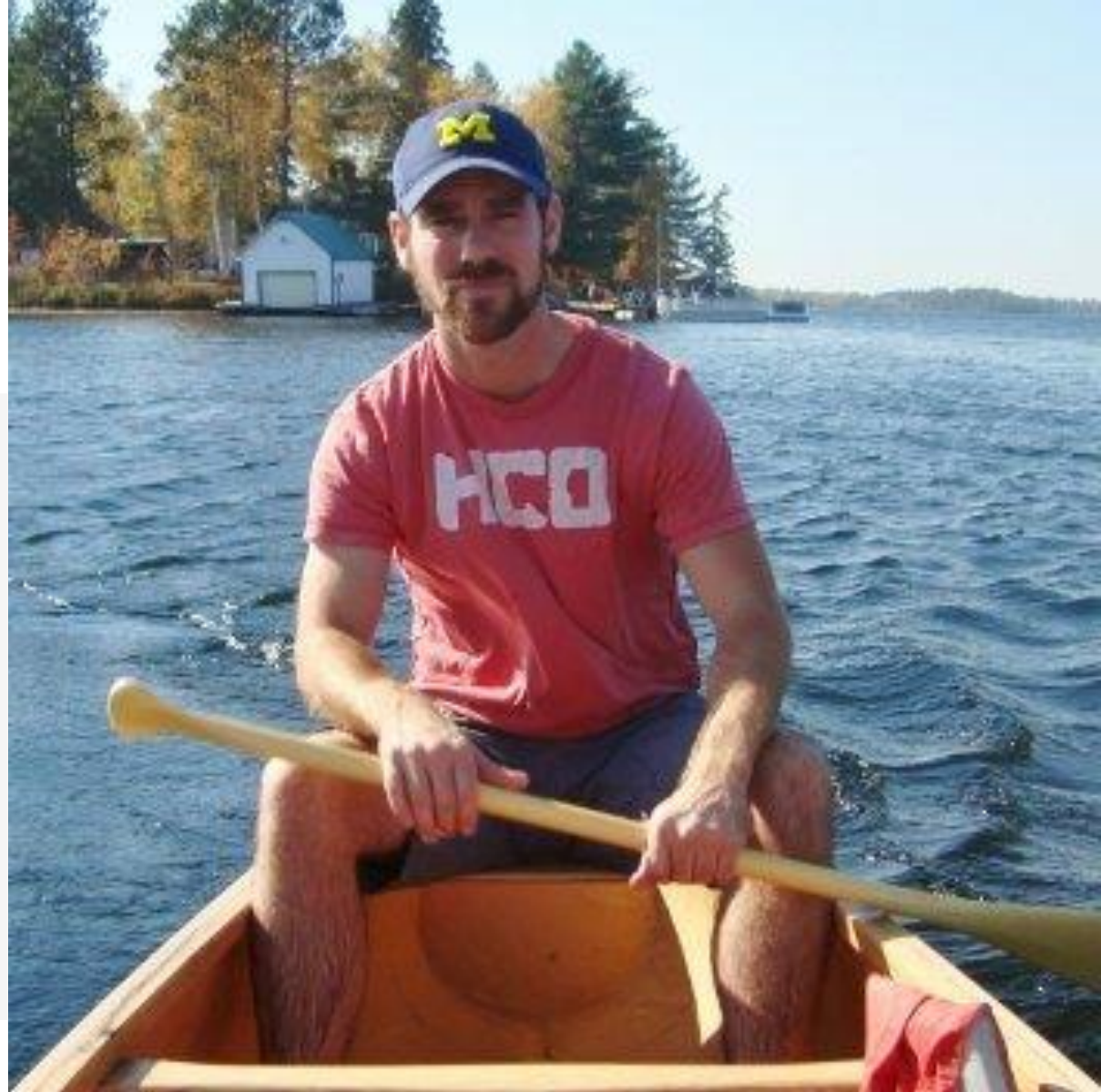
# LEITH DEACON

**Assistant Professor**  
**Department of Geography**  
*University of Alberta*  
Edmonton, Alberta

**PhD Geography (2010)**



AAG EDGE project



*“My experience at Western Geography provided me opportunities to research, teach and network.”*

**Honors BSc in GIS (2016)**



**GIS Technician  
OGSR Library London**

Along with producing and completing client maps and requests, works on data quality checks, anomaly mapping and prioritization for the GSC's hydrostratigraphy project, ensuring the formation data is correct and removing anomalous points.

**LIZ SUTHERLAND**

*The advanced GIS technique courses at Western gave me the confidence and experience to propose new methods to managing the OGSR's databases and are ultimately what led to me receiving a full-time position. The communication skills honed in my undergrad through courses such as River Ecosystems and GIS II, and club opportunities such as the GPS, are directly applicable to the work I complete alongside government and industry professionals.*

*The OGSR along with other similar facilities relies heavily on the geographic skills of their employees.*

# Maia Somers

Honors BSc (2017)  
Physical Geography and Geology



**Geology and Laboratory Technician**  
Oil, Gas, & Salt Resources (OGSR) Library

As the Database and Laboratory Technician, I use geologic data and GIS to research and contribute to quality assurance efforts updating the Paleozoic bedrock records for Southern Ontario.

*“Western Geography encouraged me to think spatially and allowed me to indulge in my excitement for the outdoors. Since Geography is interdisciplinary nature, it gave me the opportunity to easily blend together my interests in Physical Geography and Geology to study the Earth. This combination of knowledge has given me a competitive edge and is instrumental to my position at the OGSR Library.”*





# MATHEW NOVAK

**Assistant Professor**  
**Central Washington**  
**University**

MA Geography (2006)

PhD Geography (2010)



*“Geography provides a holistic view of urban issues, seeing the interaction of built, social and economic landscapes.”*



# MELISSA MARCUCCI

**BA Geography (2009)**



**Settlement Advisor  
Southeast Newcomer  
Services. Estevan, SK**  
Provides information and  
support to immigrants.

*“Geography allowed me to hone my critical thinking skills. My undergraduate thesis also opened employment opportunities for me to apply my research after graduating.”*



# MICHAEL NANGLE

Honors BA in UD (2013)

*“The UDP allowed me to understand both urban planning and real estate finance. It provided me with the opportunity to work in either the private or public sectors of real estate.”*



**Analyst, Lease Reporting  
Allied Properties REIT**

*“The Urban Development Program is unique and exceptional.”*



# NICOLE VICANO

BA Honours in Urban Development (2004) **Western** UNIVERSITY · CANADA 

Nicole's training in Urban Development helped secure her position as **Development Manager** for **Ivanhoé Cambridge**, one of the ten biggest real estate companies in the world.

*Ms. Vicano is responsible for a wide range of planning and development-related activities at Ivanhoé Cambridge. She is currently working on several shopping centre redevelopment and expansion projects, including a \$200 million investment in Ottawa's Bayshore Shopping Centre and a \$230 million investment in Oshawa Centre.*

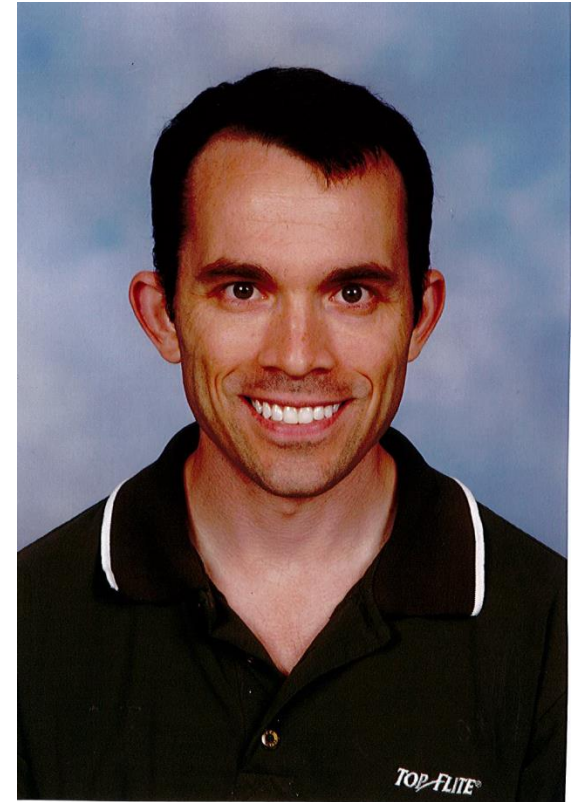


# Noah Sutherland

High School Teacher | Orange High School | Orange, NSW, Australia

Noah frequently uses the geographic skills learned at Western, especially GIS and mapping skills, when preparing and delivering class activities.

*“My time at Western taught me how to learn and study at a higher level, giving me confidence in writing papers and preparing for exams. Other highlights are the fascinating content that I learned in courses, and the fun events that happened on campus that contributed to my personal growth.”*



**BA Geography (2005)**



# PAUL MKANDAWIRE

Assistant Professor | Human Rights Program | Carleton University

PhD Geography (2011)



*“Western Geography confirmed my fascination for landscapes of human activities and my love for biophysical and human systems. It allowed me to better understand the context in which human rights struggles occur.”*



# RAHIM JAFFER

Associate, Leasing and Asset Management | Rodenbury Investments

Using his training obtained in **Geography's Urban Development Program** (2012), Rahim is responsible for the leasing and asset management of over 3 million square feet of industrial income properties across the Greater Toronto Area.

*“The UDP degree provided a solid base for entering the commercial real estate industry, and has opened doors not easily accessible for other graduates.”*





# RICHARD

# SADLER



PhD Geography (2013)

**Assistant Professor,  
Family Medicine,  
College of Human Medicine,  
Michigan State University,  
Flint, MI.**

Is working with a multi-disciplinary, community-focused research team to address health disparities and the social determinants of health

*“Thinking spatially and applying GIS allowed me to consider ‘healthy cities’ differently, and complement the traditional medical view.”*

# Robin Zhang

PhD Geography (2003)



**Professor**

**Department of Geosciences**

**Murray State University | Murray, Kentucky**

Teaches GIS, Remote Sensing, Land Use Planning, Economic Geography, introductory earth sciences, and world regional geography; conducts research on land use change and GIS modeling of environmental problems.

*“Geography gives me the interdisciplinary perspective for solving problems, in and outside of the profession.”*



# Robyn Keller

**GIS Analyst**

**Matrix Solutions Inc. Calgary**

Honors BSc GIS (2010)



AAG EDGE project

My technical role involves cartography, database administration and performing spatial analyses. I primarily support our Spill Response team which requires the above tasks produced in record timelines; as such I'm always looking for the most efficient way of doing a task and routinely work with our GIS developers.

*“I value that Geography is a combination of art and science, and GIS in particular teaches you to be open-minded and think creatively about a problem. It also teaches you that your findings must be presented clearly, concisely and suitable for the audience.”*





# ROD SMITH

**Research Scientist**  
**Geological Survey of Canada**  
**Natural Resources Canada. Calgary, Alberta**

Undertakes surficial geological mapping programs, and uses GIS studies to investigate glacial geology, permafrost, landslides and community-based hazard studies.

**B.Sc (1988); MSc. (1991)**  
**Physical Geography.**



*“Geography allows me to think spatially – to know current landscapes and predict future changes.”*



# SARAH O'NEILL

Research Partnerships  
Promotion Officer, NSERC  
Ottawa, Ontario

**BSc Geography (2008)**



Plans, develops and undertakes regional outreach and promotion activities for NSERC's Research Partnership Programs and Industrial Scholarships and Fellowships.

AAG EDGE project

*“Geography at Western gave me a science-related discipline and the chance to write technical papers – both required for my job.”*



# SEAN O'HAGAN

BA Geography (1993)  
PhD Geography (2002)



**Associate Professor  
Nipissing University**

Values the broad range of topics in Geography. Remembers interpreting climate data in one class and determining the optimal location for manufacturing plant in another.

*“The data collection and interpretation skills gained during my PhD studies have been very valuable throughout my career.”*



# SPENCER BARNES

MSc Geography (2012)  
BA Honours UDP (2010)



**Intergovernmental Infrastructure Policy Analyst**  
Ministry of Infrastructure • Province of Ontario

*Specialized in real estate econometrics and  
financial feasibility of urban developments*



# TEKLEAB GALA

PhD Geography (2010)



**Assistant Professor, Geomatics  
Chicago State University Planning  
Chicago, Illinois**

*“Geography provides me with  
unique skills to understand  
biophysical patterns in space  
and time.”*



# YUNLIANG MENG

**Assistant Professor**  
**Department of Geography**  
**Central Connecticut State**  
**University**  
**New Britain, CT**

PhD. Geography (2010)



Teaches GIS and conducts research in the area of GIS, participatory planning and social justice.

AAG EDGE project

*“Western Geography was, is and will be still my first choice for PhD studies in GIS because of the facilities, professors, and funding support.”*

# Zhaohua Chen

Remote Sensing Research Scientist, C-CORE, | Ottawa, ON

Develops applications for detecting anthropogenic disturbances and environmental changes using time series optical and SAR satellite data



*“My studies at WESTERN gave me the necessary skills and knowledge for my research and project development .”*

MSc. Geography (2003)  
PhD Geography (2008)

