

# 50th Anniversary

UC Santa Barbara Department of Geography

April 5-7, 2024

## UC Santa Barbara's Department of Geography is turning 50!

With a reputation of excellence in GIS, ocean's research, climate hazards, and environmental conservation there is much to celebrate. April 5-7 UCSB will host 200 alumni and hold a number of academic and social events.

*Weekend activities emceed by Kirk Goldsberry.*

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UC SANTA BARBARA  
Geography





## FRIDAY, APRIL 5TH

**9:00 AM -** | **Event Weekend Check-in | Henley Hall**  
**2:00 PM** | **Pick-up lanyard and welcome bag**

**9:00 AM -** | **Alumni Career Panels | Henley Hall**  
**1:00 PM** | **Coffee, pastries, and boxed lunches provided**

**1:30 -** | **Flume Lab Tour | Campus Point**  
**2:30 PM** | **Hosted by Vamsi Ganti**  
**Registration required, transportation provided**

**4:00 PM** | **Keynote | Interactive Learning Pavilion**  
**Keynote Address by Dr. Dawn Wright**

**5:30 -** | **Reception and Dinner | The Club**  
**7:30 PM** | **Includes the presentation of the Distinguished Alumni Award to Dr. Dawn Wright, Chancellor Remarks, Alumni and Faculty Awards, Raffle, and Student Poster Session**



# SATURDAY, APRIL 6TH

9:00 AM - | Event Weekend Check-in | Henley Hall  
2:00 PM | **Pick-up lanyard and welcome bag**

9:00 AM - | Faculty Research Panels | Henley Hall  
1:00 PM | **Coffee, pastries, and boxed lunches provided**

3:00 PM - | Tucker's Grove Barbeque | Tucker's Grove  
Sunset | **Food and beverages provided**





# SUNDAY, APRIL 7TH

**9:00 AM** | Hike with Mike | Ellwood Mesa Coastal Trail  
Led by Mike Goodchild and Patty Murray

**9:00 AM** | Campus Point Swim | Campus Point Beach  
Led by Stuart Sweeney and friends



# Distinguished Alumni Award

## Dawn Wright, Ph.D '94



**Dawn Wright, Chief Scientist at Esri**

After 17 years as a professor of geography and oceanography at Oregon State University Dr. Dawn Wright was appointed Chief Scientist of the Environmental Systems Research Institute (aka “Esri”), a world-leading geographic information system (GIS) software, services and R&D company in October 2011. Core to Esri’s mission is to inspire and enable people to positively impact their future by connecting them with the geoanalytic knowledge needed to make the critical decisions for a more resilient and sustainable future. As chief scientist, Dawn works directly with the CEO on strengthening the scientific foundation for Esri software and services, while also representing Esri to the international scientific community. She maintains an affiliated faculty appointment within the College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences at Oregon State.

Dawn has authored or co-authored over 200 articles and 13 books on geographic information science, as well as deep ocean mapping and conservation. She has participated in over 20 oceanographic research expeditions throughout the Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, and Southern Oceans. In 1991 she became the first Black female to dive to the ocean floor in the deep submersible Alvin. On July 12, 2022 she became the first Black person of any gender to dive to Challenger Deep, the deepest point on Earth, and to successfully operate a portable sidescan sonar at that full-ocean depth. This was accomplished in the deep submersible Limiting Factor in collaboration with Victor Vescovo and his Caladan Oceanic team.

Dawn is an elected member of both the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering, as well as the American Academy of Arts & Sciences. She has served on many advisory boards including the NOAA and EPA Science Advisory Boards, and the Science Advisory Boards of Conservation International, COMPASS Science Communication, and the Ocean Discovery XPRIZE. Dawn holds an Individual Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Physical Geography and Marine Geology from UC-Santa Barbara, an M.S. in Oceanography from Texas A&M, and a B.S. cum laude in Geology from Wheaton College (Illinois). She enjoys road cycling, 18th-century pirates, LEGOs, her golden retriever Riley, and SpongeBob Squarepants. Follow her on Twitter @deepseadawn.





# Weekend Emcee

## Kirk Goldsberry, Ph.D '07



**Kirk Goldsberry, Author and Professor**

Website: [Kirkgoldsberry.com](http://Kirkgoldsberry.com)

Adviser: Dr. Keith Clarke

Kirk Goldsberry is a pioneer of modern sports analytics, which heavily relies on spatial statistics and visualization. Cartesian coordinates of every shot taken by players on the basketball court had been recorded since 1996, and it wasn't until 2012 that people began to use them for sports analytics – Kirk's knowledge on cartography and GIS put him in a perfect position to be one of the firsts to bring a geographical perspective to the way we view modern sports.

He is currently a professor at the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas, and has been recognized for his many accomplishments along the way. Prior to his teaching position now, he has taught at Michigan State and Harvard University, served as the head analyst for Team USA Basketball, and worked as the Vice President of Strategic Research for the San Antonio Spurs. Kirk has also written the NYT bestselling book, *SprawlBall*, which draws out the geography of the basketball court and provides a spatial and visual analyses of players, teams, and positions.

His career path was not a direct one, sharing that his PhD dissertation was on the topic of real-time traffic maps, which focused on cartographic classification and symbolization. While the topic of his work has shifted since obtaining his degree, the research methods and geographical framework he learned during his schooling stays the core of his career. As Kirk emphasizes, the broad applicability of geography is what makes it so incredible.



# Accommodations

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## **The Club @ UC Santa Barbara**

*Building 581*

*Santa Barbara, CA 93106-7040*

*\$232/night*

Guests can book online using Group Code: Geo50th

## **The Upham**

*1404 De La Vina St*

*Santa Barbara, CA 93101*

*\$285-\$315/night*

All individual reservations can be emailed to Jasmine Salas at [jasmine.salas@countryhouseinns.com](mailto:jasmine.salas@countryhouseinns.com). Guests may also call the Upham main line and request to make a reservation under the "UCSB Geography Department's 50th"

## **The Steward**

*5490 Hollister Ave*

*Santa Barbara, CA 93111*

*\$399/night*

Call The Steward Hotel to reserve your room using code "UCG" for online reservations and "Geo 50th" for phone reservations.