

Hastings is one of the more than 120 students who have interned at the Centroid since its inception. She's hoping to teach GIS at the community college level following completion of her degree, and she's far from the only intern who's found a calling, thanks to the Centroid.

There's also Wesley Hartman, a 2019 natural resources management graduate who had the opportunity to join Linn on a two-week trip to Greece on a conservation-related mapping project where he flew a drone over picturesque shorelines.

"It definitely changed the course of my career," said Hartman, who has worked as a drone pilot and geospatial technician since earning his degree.

Meanwhile, Caroline Conley Norris's job as a financial analyst might not seem related to GIS, but the 2020 graduate she said she wouldn't have it without what she learned during her internship at the Centroid, where she used geospatial data to study gaps in the food system and to assist with research into agrivoltaics.

"I feel like I've been able to bring something to the table in my professional career that a lot of people don't have, and that's because of what I learned about understanding GIS," she said.

Current intern Connor Siegfroid, a second-year student studying ecosystem science and sustainability, is a regular at the Wednesday lunches and is currently working on the project for the ceramics class.

"The Centroid provides help to anyone who comes in," Siegfroid said.

And then there's Reyling, who became a Centroid employee following his internship in 2018.

"Everyone involved in this place thrives," he said.

Hartman added: "If I were to say anything to anyone curious about working at the Centroid, it's just 'go for it.'"

**LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE**

Centroid Faculty Director Matt Ross, an assistant professor in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Sustainability, is leading an effort dubbed "Geospatial Centroid 2.0." The goal? To expand the Centroid's footprint across the CSU campus – and beyond.

"I want researchers to think of us as the go-to place for geospatial analysis and geospatial data science," he said.

Elizabeth Tulanowski, the educational coordinator for the Geospatial Centroid, organizes presentations, workshops, and "map-a-thons" to help spread the word that virtually any discipline at CSU can benefit from GIS.

In fact, in one of her classes, she asked students to name instances where GIS can't be used. They're often hard-pressed to find a good answer.

"There weren't many examples," she said. "For instance, I suggested a welder couldn't benefit from GIS – but one of the students countered with the fact that they'd certainly like to know where to do their work!"

The outreach efforts are also happening off campus, with efforts to obtain external grants and projects; the Geospatial Centroid has doubled external budget contributions each year for the last two years.

"Moving forward, my goal for the Centroid is to maintain its amazing, super-vibrant culture and generosity – not just with our students, but with the people we work with," Ross said. "The frontiers of geospatial analysis are always expanding, and I want us to continue to stay on the edge of that." ■

The Centroid is set up to charge for services, for both on- and off-campus clients. The team welcomes inquiries from anyone in the community who would like to engage with geospatial technologies and explore opportunities to partner on inspiring and meaningful projects where GIS can play a role. There's also a donation page on its website to support the Centroid's projects and internship program. [gis.colostate.edu](http://gis.colostate.edu)



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