

Saskia L. van de Gevel, Ph.D.

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828.434.0924

EXECUTIVE PROFILE

A courageous leader passionately committed to building trust, partnerships, and future opportunities that enable all to participate in and benefit from higher education. Collaborates with colleagues, faculty, staff, students, and external partners to build relationships for strategic growth and educational possibilities. Encourages, motivates, and inspires confidence by leading effectively through complex changes, processes, and organizational dynamics. Emotionally intelligent, highly capable, and resourceful.

Core leadership competencies include:

- Instills trust, respect, and confidence through integrity, clear communication, and authenticity
- Fosters creative solutions and innovative ideas through purposeful leadership
- Collaborates to build partnerships with individuals and groups across levels, systems, and cultures to achieve shared objectives
- Positive, adaptive, and productive approach to shifting demands of different situations
- Develops effective diverse teams and inclusive networks to manage complexity and uncertainty
- Navigates successfully through multi-faceted institutional dynamics resulting in positive outcomes across the university
- Plans and prioritizes to meet commitments aligned with organizational goals
- Strategically seeks new ways to enhance growth opportunities and cultivate a sense of belonging and meaning for all

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Geography, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee. 2008
Dissertation: *Landscape-level dynamics in an endangered mountain ecosystem in the Northern Rocky Mountains, U.S.A.*
- M.S. Forest Ecology, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois. 2002
Thesis: *The influence of land-use history on the forest development of the Illinois Ozark Hills.*
Study Abroad: *Forest Ecology in Ireland National Parks* - June 2001
- B.S. Forest Science, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania.
2000 Study Abroad: *Forest Management Practices in Bavaria, Germany* - May 1999
Internships: Forest Ecology at Harvard Forest (Harvard University) and Tall Timbers Research Station (Florida)

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Appalachian State University is an R2, public, residential institution with an enrollment of 20,436 undergraduate students and 1,878 graduate students. Appalachian State University's ranking in

the 2025 U.S. News & World Report edition of Best Colleges is Regional Universities South (#3), Top Public Universities in the South (#2), and Best Colleges for Veterans (#2).

Department Chair of Geography and Planning	2020-current
Professor	2019-current
Associate Professor	2017-2019
Assistant Professor	2010-2017
Lecturer	2008-2010

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Department Chair of Geography and Planning:

Leader in all aspects of department administration; revised promotion & tenure, merit, and foundation documents; recruited and retained faculty during a pandemic

Strategic Planning & Communication -

- Led department strategic planning and program assessment for SACS and a Planning Accreditation Board (PAB) review towards accreditation for the Planning program (only 17 Planning accredited programs in the country)
- Created holiday donor letters that generated funds for the Department of Geography and Planning Fund and Scholarships, resulting in a total of \$82,000
- Developed a department semi-annual newsletter for over 1,000 department friends, highlighting strengths and seeking business partnership opportunities

Academic Program Development -

- Developed a new Online Graduate Geographic Information Science (GIS) certificate program to increase enrollment and meet market demands - starts August 2026
- Led and organized 60 course and program of study improvements to revitalize our curriculum and increase enrollment
- Organized all department courses to successfully transition online during COVID and created a safe work environment when people returned to campus
- Developed a new Faculty Peer Review method that aligns with the college-level Teaching Excellence Statement

Financial Responsibilities & Development -

- Supervise a \$2 million budget, including 21 full-time (13 TT, 8 NTT) faculty salaries, 22 graduate student stipends, over 118 undergraduate students, and geospatial equipment/software expenses.
- Supervise \$2,133,258 in funded grants by Department faculty
- Manage over \$950,000 as PI or Co-PI from grant organizations (\$400,000 towards K-16 education efforts)
- Renovated an underutilized storage space into a high-tech \$60,000 active-learning computer classroom during COVID
- Facilitated a new \$76,000 first-generation undergraduate student scholarship

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion -

- Conducted equity research and created leadership development on "Reducing the Risk of Sexual Misconduct in Academic Settings" (funded by USDA Grant, 2020-2021)
- Led three virtual workshops with faculty and professionals from across the United States related to "Preventing Sexual Misconduct During Field Work and Natural Resources Conferences & Workshops" (funded by USDA Grant, 2020-2021)

- Invited member of the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Finalist Team, “Improving Student Outcomes through Data-Driven Inclusive Excellence Initiatives” for Appalachian State University
- Created and managed the Department Food & Toiletry Pantry, which has provided thousands of items to students across the university who were food insecure

College of Arts and Sciences (Invited):

- Dean’s Advisory Board
- College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee
- College representative on the General Education Council
- College of Arts and Sciences Representative on General Education Council
- Environmental Science Program Committee

University-wide (Invited):

- Chancellor's Academic Leadership Development Program (ALDP) Board
- Advisory Committee on Naming Facilities, Operating Units, and Programs with the Vice Chancellor for Advancement
- Council of Chairs Inclusivity Training Working Group
- Executive Committee for the Council of Chairs
- Blackburn/Vannoy Farm Committee
- Office of Research and Sponsored Programs Website Committee

The National Geographic Society:

- **Geography Steward of North Carolina.** Coordinated and delivered outreach programs with K-12 educators and organized North Carolina Giant Map programs statewide. 2018-2020
- **Coordinator of the North Carolina Geographic Alliance – funded by the National Geographic Society Education Foundation.** Educated legislators and decision-makers on the state and local levels about the relevance of geography in K-12 education. 2017-2019
- **Led, Developed, and Organized the 2018 North Carolina Geographic Alliance - Geo-Inquiry Leadership Institute** in Ocracoke, North Carolina. Twenty K-12 geography and library science educators participated in the geo-inquiry institute. June 28-30, 2018
- **Led, Developed, and Organized the 2017 North Carolina Geographic Alliance - Geo-Inquiry Leadership Institute at the National Humanities Center (NHC)** in Durham, North Carolina. Twenty K-12 educators participated in the geo-inquiry institute, and it was also attended by Ms. LaTanya Pattillo (Education Advisor to Gov. Roy Cooper), Mr. Andy Mink (VP of Education of the NHC). June 28, 2017

Spirit Ride Therapeutic Riding Center (non-profit organization), Vice President of Fundraising:

Coordinated with businesses and private donors to raise funds to give children with a medical diagnosis the opportunity to learn, grow and strive to become their ideal selves through equine-assisted services.

Search Committees:

Appalachian State University:

Search Committee Chair: Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs

Search Committee Member:

Vice Chancellor for Finance and Operations
Director of three leadership positions for the Center of Excellence in Teaching and Learning for Student Success (CETLSS)
Chair of the Department of Sustainable Technology and the Built Environment
Chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy
Research Institute for Environment, Energy, and Economics (RIEEE) Director
Director of the Environmental Science Program

Department of Geography and Planning Search Committee Member:

Remote Sensing Assistant Professor
Environmental Science / GIS Geography Assistant Professor
Physical Geography Assistant Professor
Human Geography Assistant Professor

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP TRAINING

- **Facilitator, North Carolina American Council of Education (ACE) Women's Network, 2024**
- **North Carolina American Council of Education (ACE) Women's Network Conference, 2021-2023**
- **Chancellor's Chair Summer Institute, Appalachian State University, July 2021-2024**
- **Equity-Minded Faculty Workload Chairs Workshop, Appalachian State University, Dec 8-9, 2022**
- **Department Climate & Retention Session in Equity-Centered Leadership, Appalachian State University, November 9, 2021**
- **National Coalition Building Institute's Diversity Equity & Inclusion "Train the Trainer" Workshop, Appalachian State University, November 4-6, 2020**
- **BRIDGES, Academic Leadership for Women Program.** A professional development program in higher education for selected women leaders to identify, understand, and build their management roles in the academy, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. 2018
- **Appalachian Leadership Development Program (ALDP).** The mission of the ALDP is to provide formal assistance and training to a diverse group of selected faculty and staff at Appalachian State University in their exploration and development of leadership capabilities. 2017-2018
- **American Council of Education (ACE) Regional Women's Leadership Forum, Clemson, South Carolina. October 24-26, 2016**

GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, and TEACHING AWARDS

Finalist for the Academic Affairs' Distinguished Leader Award, 2024. Appalachian State University

Finalist for the College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Leadership Award, 2024. Appalachian State University

Finalist for the College of Arts and Sciences Inclusion Award, 2022. Appalachian State University

USDA Higher Education Challenge (HEC) Grant, 2020-2021. *Promoting Professionalism In Remote*

Fieldwork. Co-PIs: Dr. Carolyn Copenheaver, Dr. Thomas Coates, Dr. Adam Downing (Virginia Tech). **\$30,000**

National Center for Research in Geography Education (NCGRE) Transformative Research Grant, 2018-2019. *Asking Geographic Questions to Address Political Issues.* Co-PIs: Dr. Rebecca Theobald (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs), Andy Mink (National Humanities Center), and Anita Palmer (GISetc), **\$19,444**

National Geographic Society Education Foundation, 2017-2018. Network of Alliances for Geographic Education, North Carolina Geographic Alliance, **\$27,500**

Board of Governors Appalachian State University Campus Excellence in Teaching Award, 2017, Appalachian State University, **\$1,000**

College of Arts and Sciences Grant for Summer Research 2017, Appalachian State University, **\$2,500**

National Geographic Society Education Foundation, 2016-2017. Network of Alliances for Geographic Education, North Carolina Geographic Alliance. Co-PI: Dr. James Young (Appalachian State University), **\$27,500**

USDA AFRI Grant, 2016-2018. *Forest Resilience to Climate Change: A Dendroclimatic Assessment of Trees with Commercial and Conservation Value.* Co-PIs: Dr. Carolyn Copenheaver (Virginia Tech), Dr. Sophan Chhin (Michigan State University), Dr. Margaret Evans (University of Arizona), Dr. Glenn Juday (University of Alaska Fairbanks), and Dr. Ketia Shumaker (University of West Alabama), **\$427,500**

Humanities Scholars Fellowship, 2014-2015. A Dendrochronological Analysis of Legacy Trees at Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest, Virginia. Funded by the College of Arts and Sciences, Appalachian State University, **\$1,690**

Appalachian Women Scientists SEED Grant, 2013-2014. Funded by the Cratis D. Williams Graduate School and Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, Appalachian State University, **\$1,972**

Historic Preservation Contract, 2013. Using Tree-Ring Samples to Determine Terminus Post Quem Dates for Archaeological Dam Sites in the Chattahoochee River. Southern Research, Historic Preservation Consultants, Inc., 2013. Co-PI: Peter Soulé (Appalachian State University). **\$3,806**

Historic Preservation Contract, 2012. Tree-Ring Analysis of Industrial Archaeological Sites in the Chattahoochee River. Southern Research, Historic Preservation Consultants, Inc., 2012-2013. Co-PI: Peter Soulé (Appalachian State University). **\$2,617**

Finalist for the Appalachian Global Leadership Award, Fall 2012, Appalachian State University. The Global Leadership Awards Program is an annual award to recognize students, faculty, and staff who have made a significant contribution to advance global learning at Appalachian State University

Finalist for THE GREAT COURSES to teach a Physical Geography Video Lecture Series, Spring 2012. The Great Courses brings engaging professors into peoples' homes through college video courses. The Great Courses offers over 425 courses for lifelong learners (<http://www.thegreatcourses.com/>)

Graduate Research Associate Mentoring (GRAM) Award, 2011-2013. Cratis D. Williams Graduate

School and Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, Appalachian State University, **\$20,000**

University Research Council (URC) Grant, 2011-2012. Cratis D. Williams Graduate School and Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, Appalachian State University, **\$2,824**

USDA Higher Education Challenge (HEC) Grant, 2010-2012. The purpose of the *Ambassadors for Conservation Education (ACE) Program* was to recruit a larger, more diverse student body to natural resource and agricultural communication degree programs. Co-PIs: Dr. Nicholas Fuhrman, Dr. Christian Morgan (University of Georgia), Dr. Carolyn Copenheaver, and Dr. John Seiler (Virginia Tech), **\$364,000**

Undergraduate Research Assistantships, 2009-2010. Office of Student Research, Appalachian State University, **\$2,000**

Wachovia Environmental Research Award, 2009. Cratis D. Williams Graduate School and Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, Appalachian State University, **\$500**

Foundation Fellows Grant, 2009. Hubbard Center for Faculty Development, Appalachian State University. Applying the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning to Mountain Geography Field-Based Courses, **\$5,000**

The Nature Conservancy, 2009. Forest Stand Dynamics of a Natural Area in the Southern Appalachians, Bluff Mountain, North Carolina, \$3,000

National Science Foundation (NSF) Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, 2005. to support field research on whitebark pine communities in the Northern Rocky Mountains, **\$9,998**

PUBLICATIONS (Peer-Reviewed)

Ken Foote, LaToya Eaves, Jonathan Harbor, Kathleen Schroeder, **Saskia L. van de Gevel**, and Susy Ziegler
2025. Fostering Harassment-Free Geography Departments: Proactive Strategies for Department and Program Leaders. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers* (in review)

Kristen de Graauw, Maegen Rochner, **Saskia L. van de Gevel**, Lauren Stachowiak, Savannah Collins-Key, Joseph Hendersen, and Amy Hessel
2023. Comparing the impact of live-tree vs. historic-timber data on palaeoenvironmental inferences in tree-ring science, eastern North America. *The Holocene*: 1-11
<https://doi.org/10.25384/SAGE.c.6855271.v1>

Grant Harley, Matt Therrell, Justin Maxwell, Arvind Bhuta, Joshua Bregy, Karen Heeter, **Saskia L. van de Gevel**...& Sarir Ahmad
2023. The Longleaf Tree-Ring Network: Reviewing and expanding the utility of *Pinus palustris* Mill. Dendrochronological data. *Progress in Physical Geography: Earth and Environment* 0(0): 1-27

Carolyn Copenheaver, **Saskia L. van de Gevel**, Adam Downing, and Adam Coates
2023. Reducing the risk of sexual misconduct during field research with students. *Natural Areas Journal* 43(2): 117-123

- Carolyn Copenheaver, **Saskia L. van de Gevel**, Adam Downing, and Adam Coates
2022. Reducing the risk of sexual misconduct at dendrochronology conferences and workshops. *Tree-Ring Research* 78(2): 140–149
- Carolyn Copenheaver, Adam Coates, Adam Downing, and **Saskia L. van de Gevel**
2021. Best instructional practices for outdoor laboratories: reducing sexual harassment risk. *NACTA Journal* 65: 322-327
- April Kaiser, Pete Soulé, **Saskia L. van de Gevel**, Paul Knapp, Arvind Bhuta, and Jeffrey Walters
2020. Dendroecological investigation of red-cockaded woodpecker cavity tree selection in endangered longleaf pine forests. *Forest Ecology and Management* 473: 118291
- McDade, Derek Martin, **Saskia L. van de Gevel**, and Jessica Mitchell
2020. Impacts of the hemlock woolly adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*) on headwater stream woody debris loads in the Southern Appalachian Mountains. *Southeastern Geographer* 60(1): 65-86
- Rebecca Theobald, Anita Palmer, and **Saskia L. van de Gevel**
2019. Interactive Mapping for Transparent Redistricting. *Research in Geographic Education* 21(2): 11-38.
- Zachary Osborne, **Saskia L. van de Gevel**, Montana Eck, and Margaret Sugg
2019. An Assessment of Geospatial Technology Integration in K–12 Education. *Journal of Geography*: 1- 12
- Karen J. Heeter, Grant L. Harley, **Saskia L. van de Gevel**, and Philip B. White
2019. Blue intensity as a temperature proxy in the eastern United States: A pilot study from a southern disjunct population of *Picea rubens* (Sarg.). *Dendrochronologia* 55: 105-109
- Saskia L. van de Gevel**, Evan Larson, and Henri D. Grissino-Mayer
2017. Separating trends in whitebark pine radial growth related to climate and mountain pine beetle outbreaks in the Northern Rocky Mountains. *Forests* 8: 195
- Maegen Rochner, **Saskia L. van de Gevel**, Mark D. Spond, and Henri D. Grissino-Mayer
2017. Using dendrochronology to investigate the historical and educational value of two log structures, Bear Paw State Natural Area, North Carolina, U.S.A. *Tree-Ring Research* 73(2): 136-148
- David Austin, **Saskia L. van de Gevel**, and Peter T. Soulé
2016. Forest dynamics and climate sensitivity of an endangered Carolina hemlock community in the southern Appalachian Mountains, U.S.A. *Botany* 94(4): 301-309
- Mark D. Spond, **Saskia L. van de Gevel**, and Henri D. Grissino-Mayer
2014. Climate-growth relationships for Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum* Sarg.) on the volcanic badlands of western New Mexico, U.S.A. *Dendrochronologia* 32: 137–143
- Philip B. White, Peter T. Soulé, and **Saskia L. van de Gevel**
2014. Impacts of human disturbance on the temporal stability of climate-growth relationships in a red spruce forest, Southern Appalachian Mountains, U.S.A. *Dendrochronologia* 32: 71-77
- Nicholas Fuhrman, Chris Morgan, Carolyn Copenheaver, John Peterson, Milton Newberry, Sara DeLoach, and **Saskia L. van de Gevel**
2014. Repeated monitoring of forest plots: Evaluating the accuracy of student scientist data.

- Saskia L. van de Gevel**, Justin L. Hart, Mark D. Spond, Philip B. White, Megan N. Sutton, and Henri Grissino-Mayer
2012. American chestnut to northern red oak: a forest dynamics study in the Blue Ridge Mountains, North Carolina, U.S.A. *Botany* 90: 1263-1275
- Philip B. White, **Saskia L. van de Gevel**, and Peter T. Soulé
2012. Succession and disturbance in an endangered red spruce-Fraser fir forest in the southern Appalachian Mountains, North Carolina, U.S.A. *Endangered Species Research* 18: 17-25
- Philip B. White, **Saskia L. van de Gevel**, Henri D. Grissino-Mayer, and Lisa B. LaForest
2011. Climatic response of oak species across an environmental gradient in the southern Appalachian Mountains, U.S.A. *Tree-Ring Research* 67(1): 27-37
- Justin L. Hart, **Saskia L. van de Gevel**, John Sakulich, and Henri D. Grissino-Mayer
2010. Influence of climate and disturbance on the growth of *Tsuga canadensis* at its southern limit. *Trees* 24: 621-633
- Justin L. Hart, David A. Austin, and **Saskia L. van de Gevel**
2010. Radial growth responses of three co-occurring species to small canopy disturbances in a secondary hardwood forest on the Cumberland Plateau, Tennessee. *Physical Geography* 31(2): 1-22
- Evan R. Larson, **Saskia L. van de Gevel**, and Henri D. Grissino-Mayer
2009. Variability in fire regimes of high-elevation whitebark pine communities, western Montana, U.S.A. *Ecoscience* 16(3): 282-298
- Henri D. Grissino-Mayer, Lisa B. LaForest, and **Saskia L. van de Gevel**
2009. Construction history of the Rocky Mount Historic Site, Piney Flats, Tennessee from tree-ring and documentary evidence. *Southeastern Archaeology* 28(1): 64-77
- Saskia L. van de Gevel**, Justin L. Hart, Henri D. Grissino-Mayer, and Ken W. Robinson
2009. Tree-ring dating of old-growth longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris* Mill.) logs from an exposed timber crib dam, Hope Mills, North Carolina, U.S.A. *Tree-Ring Research* 65(1): 69-80
- Joseph P. Henderson, Henri D. Grissino-Mayer, **Saskia L. van de Gevel**, and Justin L. Hart
2009. The historical dendroarchaeology of the Hoskins House, Tannenbaum Historic Park, Greensboro, North Carolina. *Tree-Ring Research* 65(1): 37-45
- Sara A. Blankenship, Meta G. Pike, **Saskia L. van de Gevel**, and Henri D. Grissino-Mayer
2009. The dendroarchaeology of Cagle Saltpetre Cave: A nineteenth century saltpeter mining site in Van Buren County, Tennessee. *Tree-Ring Research* 65(1): 11-22
- Justin L. Hart, **Saskia L. van de Gevel**, and Henri D. Grissino-Mayer
2008. Disturbance dynamics in a natural area of the southern Ridge and Valley, Tennessee. *Natural Areas Journal* 28(3): 275-289
- Justin L. Hart, **Saskia L. van de Gevel**, David F. Mann, and Wayne K. Clatterbuck
2008. Legacy of charcoaling in a Western Highland Rim forest in Tennessee. *American Midland Naturalist* 159: 238-250

Henri D. Grissino-Mayer and **Saskia L. van de Gevel**

2007. Tell-tale trees: the historical dendroarchaeology of log structures at Rocky Mount, Piney Flats, Tennessee. *Historical Archaeology* 41(4): 32–49

Marc D. Abrams, Carolyn A. Copenheaver, Bryan A. Black, and **Saskia L. van de Gevel**

2001. Dendroecology and balsam fir decline in a relic, old-growth, bog forest in the central Ridge and Valley Province. *Botany* 79: 58–69

Marc D. Abrams, **Saskia L. van de Gevel**, Ryan C. Dodson, and Carolyn A. Copenheaver

2000. The dendroecology and climate impacts for old-growth white pine and hemlock on the extreme slopes of the Berkshire Hills, Massachusetts. *Botany* 78: 851–861

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

“Strategies for Leading a Harassment-Free Department Panel and Workshop” Organizer and Panelist at the 2024 American Association of Geographers Conference, April 16-20, 2024.

Chancellor's Summer Chair Institute, “Crisis Management: My Administrative Assistant is leaving for another job!; One of my TT Faculty Has a Medical Crisis; Faculty Bullying; and other matters that might keep you up at night.” Appalachian State University, July 10, 2023

“Reducing the Risk of Sexual Misconduct in Academic Settings” to the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture Predoctoral Fellowship Program. Sponsored by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Webinar, March 7, 2023

Chancellor's Summer Chair Institute, “Chair Challenges Panel,” Appalachian State, July 12-14, 2022

“Addressing Barriers to Minoritized Scholars’ Advancement and Success in Physical Geography Fields: What can your department do?” Association of American Geographers (AAG) conference, New York City, February 25-March 1, 2022

“Reducing the risk of sexual misconduct during field research and laboratories” to 89 USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture administrators and staff. Webinar, November 18, 2021

“The Ethics of Gerrymandering,” Webinar at the National Humanities Center, May 16, 2019

“Paradigms and Milestones in Geography Education: Looking Back, Looking Forward,” Association of American Geographers (AAG) conference, Washington, D.C. April 3-7, 2019

“Sexual Harassment and Bullying Policies in Academia Panel” Led and organized the panel at the American Association of Geographers (AAG) conference, Washington, D.C. April 3-7, 2019

“The Academic Job Market for Geographers: Strategies for Improving Employment Preparation,” and **“Career Mentoring,”** American Association of Geographers (AAG) conference, New Orleans, Louisiana. April 10-13, 2018

“Barriers and Opportunities for Women in the Geography STEM Subdisciplines,” and **“The Academic Job Market for Geographers: Strategies for Improving Employment Preparation,”** American Association of Geographers (AAG) conference, Boston, Massachusetts. April 5-9, 2017