Geography studies the interaction between people and their environments, including the ways in which the people, the environments, and the interactions all vary from place to place over the earth. Because it is concerned with the character of people and their cultures on the one hand, and with the character of the earth’s surface and its resources on the other, geography is both a social and a natural science. The UW–Madison geography program is organized into four major thematic areas: physical geography and earth system science, people-environmental studies, cartography and GIS, and human geography. There is intentional overlap among the thematic areas and many of our faculty work across subfields (e.g., teach courses in both human and people-environment).