

# SAERI NEWS

## Introducing GIS specialist Catherine Gallagher

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SAERI's New GIS Officer – Catherine (Cat) Gallagher



Hello! I'm very excited to finally be here and joining the SAERI team. I've written up a little piece to introduce myself and give a bit of my GIS background. I grew up in Louisville, Kentucky, USA. I love Louisville; it's a great city that's not too big and not too small. Our claims to fame are the Kentucky Derby and, of course, Kentucky Fried Chicken. Louisville is big on basketball as well, and our team, the University of Louisville Cardinals, is the team I support, mainly in basketball and (American) football. My Dad and I have had football season tickets for as long as I

can remember, so I'm a big fan. You may see me in one of my Cards t-shirts on the website sooner or later!

Once I finished high school, I moved to New York City for college where I attended Fordham University, majoring in Computer Science and with minors in Philosophy and French. In my free time, I was in the various theatre groups on campus and one of the things I'm most proud of is co-directing an experimental adaptation of *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. I know I'm very biased, but I thought it turned out really well! I was also on our improv comedy troupe my senior year.

After graduating, I worked at the Prospect Park Zoo in Brooklyn for a year doing conservation education. This predominantly consisted of hosting zoo birthday parties. We had a tractable animal collection of chickens, rabbits, ferrets, chinchillas, a few different species of lizards, a few different species of snakes, and Madagascar hissing cockroaches. I would show the animals to the kids and use them as a tool to teach them about science and conservation. Hosting parties was exhausting but so much fun! The parents would usually give me a slice of cake too, so I ate more birthday cake in that year than any human reasonably should (and it was amazing).

Fed up with New York City and snow, I decided to move to Austin, Texas. I got a job working for an app called ForeFlight that pilots use in the cockpit to help them fly. My job was taking maps from various aviation agencies around the world and getting them into a form that the app could handle so that customers could have access to them digitally (and georeferenced) instead of having to use paper maps.

Outside of work, I volunteer at Austin Animal Center working with the dogs, particularly the dogs in the ICU who are recovering from surgery. I also have my own dog, Archie, who is staying with family friends up in New Jersey while I'm down here. He is a total nutcase and my best little buddy, and I miss him lots!