



# 2022 Student Awards

## Message from the Chair

Greetings from the Geography and Planning Department!

This was a busy year for our department. As campus fully returned to in-person operations, our department offered an Applied Bengal Pause series in the fall organized by Dr. Stephen Vermette and Mary Perrelli. Envisioned as an “antidote to Zoom,” the series included water sampling and analysis, flying drones, reading topo maps, and learning about weather instruments with Todd Santos of Channel 4. We also hosted the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual SE Asia week this spring. In January we moved to Buckham Hall where we will be located while our former building is being renovated (see story on page 6). We also celebrated Katheryne T. Whittemore, our founding member, as part of Buffalo State’s 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Now is the time of year when we get to celebrate our graduating students. Please keep reading to learn about our Geography and Planning Department award winners and other notable achievements of our students!



Dr. Camille Holmgren

## 2021-2022 Geography & Planning Department Graduates

### Environmental Geography B.S.

Ceejay Boswell

Hannah Burns

Ryann Dubel

Samantha Lonas

Paul Osmon

Tyler Putnam

Collin Snyder

### Geography B.A.

Kevin Calnan

Shahat Ahmedi

Evan Valenti

### Urban & Regional Planning B.S.

Matthew Azzano

Savana Bevacqua

Austin Gilligan

Ava LaBella



## Katheryne T. Whittemore Award for Outstanding Student in Geography & Planning — Hannah Burns

Named after the founding member of our department, this award is given to the most out-standing senior in either major. This is our most prestigious award. Students must have demonstrated their ability and commitment to the major, above and beyond a good GPA.



**Hannah Burns**

Hannah joined the Department of Geography & Planning in Fall 2020 as a transfer student into our Environmental Geography B.S. program. She earned a 4.0 GPA in both her major and the Undergraduate Geographic Information Systems (GIS) certificate. As part of her scholarship, Hannah created a story map for the Erie County Bicentennial Celebration. Her story map documents the hidden histories of three pioneering women in Western New York who will be honored with new statues and plaques as part of the Trailblazing Women of Western NY Monument Project. In addition, Hannah was awarded the School of Arts and Sciences Dean's Award in our department for 2022. Hannah will be working as a Production Technician for Osmose Utility Services performing database management and supporting field employees.

Hannah will have her name engraved on the plaque located in the Geography & Planning Department. She will also receive a certificate from the Department, Cross pen, and \$50. Congratulations, Hannah!

## Western New York American Planning Association Student Merit Awards — Savanna Bevacqua



The **Western New York American Planning Association Student Merit Award** is our most prestigious award given to a Planning senior.

Savanna is graduating with her BS in Urban and Regional Planning. She is a lifelong Lewiston resident and is currently serving a 3-year term on the Village of Lewiston planning board. She was accepted into the University at Buffalo's Master of Urban Planning program for fall 2022. She is a US Navy veteran, having served as a master at arms. She completed an AAS in humanities at NCCC before attending Buffalo State and is currently running for Board of Education for the Lewiston Porter district. She is also serving as the chair of the 2022 Village of Lewiston Democratic Caucus.

Savanna will receive an award from the WNY APA and will also be recognized at their annual awards dinner. In addition, she will receive a certificate from the Geography and Planning Department. Way to go, Savanna!

## National Center for Geographic Education Excellence of Scholarship Award (Planning) — Ava LaBella



**Ava LaBella**

The **National Center for Geographic Education Excellence of Scholarship Award (Planning)** recognizes outstanding academic achievement of a Planning major. The primary criterion of this award is academic performance. Secondary criteria can include departmental service, dedication, and enthusiasm.

Ava is currently with GoBike where she is the Community Outreach and Engagement intern. She is assisting the GoBike team on 'Healthy Streets Initiative' projects by creating forums, surveys, and web-based engagement. Gathering community input is her favorite role as a planner because she enjoys learning about the needs of local communities. She recently made an informational video about the positive economic development impacts of roundabouts in the Village of Hamburg and why more are needed in Buffalo. The video received over 3,000 views.

Ava will receive an award from the NCGE as well as a certificate from the Geography & Planning Department. Nicely done, Ava!

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## National Center for Geographic Education Excellence of Scholarship Award (Geography) — Kevin Calnan



**Kevin Calnan**

The **National Center for Geographic Education Excellence of Scholarship Award (Geography)** recognizes outstanding academic achievement of a Geography major. The primary criterion of this award is academic performance. Secondary criteria can include departmental service, dedication, and enthusiasm.

Kevin transferred to Buffalo State in the Fall of 2020 and completed both the B.A. in Geography and the Undergraduate GIS Certificate while maintaining a very high GPA. Kevin created a story map project for Erie County Bicentennial, "The Pride of Western New York – Erie County: The LGBTQ+ Resistance Movement & Community Formation," that documented LGBTQ+ history and geographic venues in Western NY. Kevin was also selected to be a Geography peer tutor for the Buffalo State Tutoring Services and served as a teacher Assistant at D'Youville College working to help teachers integrate GIS into Social Studies lessons. Kevin also served as the Geography & Planning student representative on the Dean's Student Council and was a nominee for the President's Medal for Outstanding Student and SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence.

Kevin will receive an award from the NCGE as well as a certificate from the Geography & Planning Department. Nicely done, Kevin!

## David Bullough Memorial Award for Academic Excellence — Shannon Hanley



**Shannon Hanley**

The **David Bullough Memorial Award for Academic Excellence** (named after the son of the late Vern Bullough, former Dean of SNSS) is awarded to the student minoring in Geography, Planning, Meteorology & Climatology, or GIS with the highest minor GPA who will not be receiving another departmental award that semester.

Shannon is earning a GIS Certificate as well her BS in Criminal Justice. She has earned a high GPA in the GIS Certificate program, an outstanding accomplishment. She is a dedicated student that is open minded and embraces new challenges and opportunities. In difficult situations, Shannon works hard to overcome difficulties to reach excellent results. Shannon plans to enroll in a Masters degree program after graduation.

Shannon will receive a \$50.00 check and a certificate from the Geography & Planning Department.

Congratulations, Shannon!

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## Planning Intern of the Year — Matthew Azzano



**Matthew Azzano**

Matthew is graduating with a BS in Urban and Regional Planning. He completed an internship in Fall 2021 with the Buffalo Erie Niagara Land Improvement Corporation (BENLIC) where he learned the role of a Property Analyst and became proficient in several tools used to identify and analyze delinquent tax properties for potential acquisition for rehabilitation. Following his internship, he began working part-time for BENLIC as a Property Analyst. He chose to study urban planning because of his family's history in construction and real estate. From a young age, he was fascinated with the powers and processes that shape our cities. He also is an avid rugby fan and plays for the Buffalo State Mad Dogs.

As the Intern of the Year, he will also be recognized at the Buffalo State College Career Development Center's annual Internship Appreciation and Recognition Celebration in a video.

Great job, Matt!



## Dean's List Students

Students who have complete at least 12 credit hours and maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.5 for a term qualify for the Buffalo State Dean's List. Congratulations to all our Dean's List students.

### Spring 2021

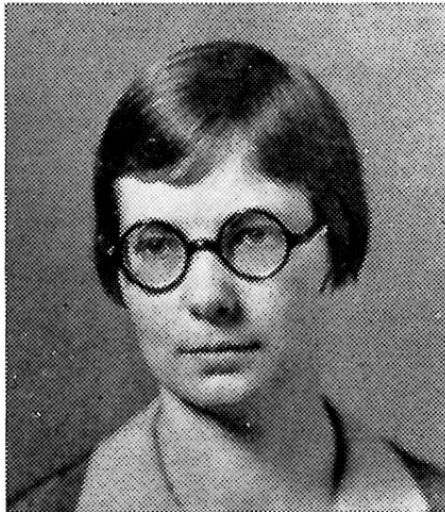
- Matthew Azzano
- Jamie Bommer
- Hannah Burns
- Zachary Colling
- Kathryn Furtney
- Austin Gilligan
- Ryan Jasinski
- Caitlyn Parsons
- Jessica Perez
- Nicholas Ruth

### Fall 2021

- Jamie Bommer
- Ceejay Boswell
- Hannah Burns
- Kevin Calnan
- Zachary Colling
- Kathryn Furtney
- Jacob Morgan
- Caitlyn Parsons
- Joseph Rodriguez

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## “Grand Lady” of Geography, by Stephen Vermette



Katheryne T. Whittemore

In celebration of Buffalo State's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, through a series of writings and talks, we took a journey back in time to learn more about the founding member of the Geography Department (Urban Planning was added many years later). [Katheryne T. Whittemore](#) was hired as a geography instructor in 1925 and served as Head of Department with the founding of the department in 1932. She continued in this role until 1957, whereupon she served as the inaugural Director of the Division of Arts & Science until retiring in 1962. She completed her geography M.A. in 1925, to be followed by a Ph.D. in 1936 – both from Clark University, Massachusetts.

Dr. Whittemore was a staunch advocate for geography. By way of example: with the organization of departments in 1932, she was given the choice to be a part of either the science or social studies departments. She chose to stand alone as a separate department of geography. She was well travelled– Asia, Arctic, Africa– publishing textbooks on Asia and North America. She has been referred to as “[Buffalo State's real-life Indiana Jones](#)”. The Katheryne T. Whittemore Memorial Award is our department's most prestigious award where her legacy honors today's future geographers.

## Buckham Hall – The Geography and Planning Department Temporary Home by Mary Perrelli

This fall we said goodbye to our department home of fifty years in the Classroom Building. We packed up our offices, classrooms and labs and moved into Buckham Hall (the former Campus West School ). This will be our home until 2026 when we are scheduled to move back into the newly renovated Classroom Building. The Classroom Building has received a temporary building name of “The Elms Hall” after the Buffalo State Yearbook called “The Elms”. We were hoping for Whittemore Hall, after Katheryne Whittemore, founder of the Geography Department.

The move was no small feat. We found all kinds of interesting things during the move; old maps and books, stereoscopes, map lettering kits; the tools of the geographer from a pre-digital era. This move wouldn't have been possible without the help of environmental geography major, Zach Colling. He spent many days helping to hand-carry over our sensitive and fragile lab equipment. We are making the most of our new spaces in Buckham Hall. We have a large watershed lab with enough seating to accommodate a class of 17 students! It was well utilized this spring semester by the students in the Soil Science and Management class.



Students working in watershed lab



Soils class in the field at Seneca Bluffs

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Alumni, we want to hear from you! Where are you? What are you doing? Please contact the department so you can be featured in our next newsletter. Email: Mary Perrelli at [perrelmf@buffalostate.edu](mailto:perrelmf@buffalostate.edu)