



2021 Student Awards

Message from the Chair

Hello from the Geography and Planning Department!

One of my favorite spring activities is recognizing all the efforts and successes of our students. Although we cannot come together in person to celebrate this year, we are excited to highlight the achievements of our students in our second annual Student Awards Newsletter.

Please keep reading to learn about our Geography and Planning Department award winners and other notable achievements of our students!



Dr. Camille Holmgren

2020-2021 Geography & Planning Department Graduates

- Hunter Bogdan, Environmental Geography B.S.
- Anthony Capizzi, Environmental Geography B.S.
- Jennifer Hanson, Environmental Geography B.S., Photography B.F.A., GIS Certificate, Drawing Minor
- Kevin M. Harper, Environmental Geography B.S., GIS Certificate
- Ryan Jasinski, Geography B.A., GIS Certificate, Meteorology & Climatology Minor
- David Kling, Geography B.A.
- Jessica Perez, Environmental Geography B.S.
- Tearrah Ramsey, Urban and Regional Planning B.S.
- Nicholas Ruth, Urban and Regional Planning B.S., Safety Studies Minor



Katheryne T. Whittemore Award for Outstanding Student in Geography & Planning — Anthony Capizzi

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. In rare years like this one, we have two students that are so exceptional that we select them both for this top award.



One of our winners is Anthony Capizzi. Anthony is graduating with his BS in Environmental Geography. Beyond excellence in the classroom, Anthony worked on a project for the Town of Tonawanda inspecting stormwater outfalls, collecting GPS data and water samples, and analyzing water samples. Anthony was a transfer student that impressed faculty greatly with his enthusiasm and ability. Anthony is interested in pursuing environmental/GIS work in Western New York and is considering graduate school.

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

Anthony Capizzi

Katheryne T. Whittemore Award for Outstanding Student in Geography & Planning — Jennifer Hanson



Our other Katherine T. Whittmeore Award winner is Jennifer Hanson. Jennifer is graduating with a BS in Environmental Geography, a BFA in Photography, a minor in Drawing, and the GIS Certificate! Jennifer also worked on the Town of Tonawanda project inspecting stormwater outfalls, in addition to working with Erie County's Stormwater Coalition to map stormwater flow direction and compile green infrastructure assessments for local municipalities. She was also last year's Geography Intern of the Year. After graduation she plans to either serve a term in Americorps or complete another internship to gain work experience before pursuing graduate study.

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

Jennifer Hanson

Western New York American Planning Association Student Merit Award — Nicholas Ruth



Nicholas Ruth

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

Nicholas is graduating with a BS in Urban and Regional Planning. In addition to an excellent GPA, Nicholas has taken many skills-based courses and a senior project that analyzes the change in vegetative land cover in Erie County. His project is influenced by his interest in the role of street trees on the urban heat island effect, especially as it relates to human health. After graduation he hopes to pursue a career in environmental planning in hopes of preparing Buffalo and its stakeholders for an ever-changing climate.

Nicholas will receive an award from the WNY APA and will also be recognized at a virtual event in lieu of their normal awards dinner. In addition, he will receive a certificate from the Geography & Planning Department. Way to go, Nicholas!

National Center for Geographic Education Excellence of Scholarship Award (Geography) —Kevin M. Harper



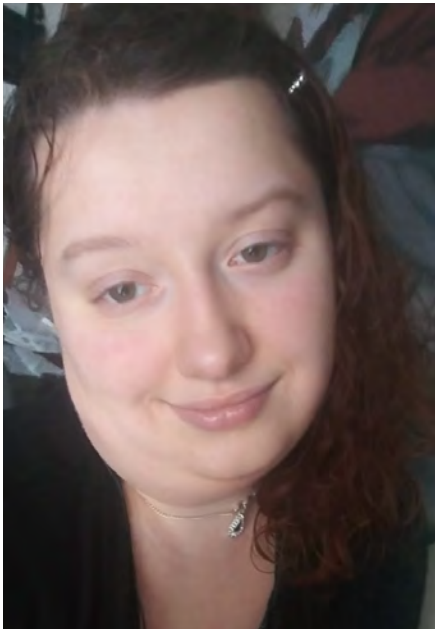
Kevin M. Harper

The **National Center for Geographic Education Excellence of Scholarship Award (Geography)** recognizes out-standing 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 is graduating with both a BS in Environmental Geography as well as the GIS Certificate. Kevin came to our department as a transfer student and quickly distinguished himself by his strong engagement in courses and excellent grades. Since graduating, Kevin has been working for the New York State Department of Health to help combat COVID 19 in Western New York. He plans to continue his education and pursue a masters degree at Buffalo State.

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 — Victoria Sample



Victoria Sample

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.

Victoria is earning a minor in Meteorology & Climatology as well her BS in Criminal Justice. She has a perfect 4.0 in her minor, an outstanding accomplishment. After graduation, which wants to work in the Emergency Management sector, whether at the local, state, or federal level. She describes it as her dream job and one that marries her minor in Meteorology and Climatology to her major in Criminal Justice.

Victoria will receive a \$50.00 check and a certificate from the Geography & Planning Department. Congratulations, Victoria!

Chair's Discretionary Award - Ryan Jasinski



Ryan Jasinski

The Chair's Discretionary Award is given at the discretion of the chair, after consultation with faculty. The award is given to a student who has made an outstanding contribution to the department or college, through a particular effort in research, education, or community involvement.

Ryan is graduating with a BS in Environmental Geography, a minor in Meteorology & Climatology, and the GIS Certificate. He is also doing a project with Dr. Stephen Vermette examining Western New York's weather trends that involves compiling data from cooperative weather sites, graphing and analyzing data, and producing maps. Ryan says that he just knew that geography was what he wanted to major in at an early age. His enthusiasm for this discipline have been much appreciated by faculty and his peers alike. After graduation, he is interested in finding an internship involving weather and/or statistics.

Ryan will receive a book chosen for him by the Chair, as well as a certificate from the Geography & Planning Department. Well done, Ryan!

Planning Intern of the Year - Savana Bevacqua



Savana is working towards her BS in Urban and Regional Planning. This spring, she is doing an internship with the Tonawanda Local Development Corporation under the guidance of Dr. Jason Knight. For her internship, she is researching economic development programs from other local development corporations, searching for grant funding and assisting with grant development, doing a review and inventory of City of Tonawanda development sites, and tracking state and federal COVID-19 stimulus funds and programs. After graduation she plans to pursue her Master of Urban Planning at the University at Buffalo.

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

Great job, Savana!

Savana Bevacqua

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. In a testament to our the commitment and resilience of our students, In Fall 2020 in the midst of a pandemic, we had the greatest number of students make the Dean's List during my time as Chair! Congratulations to all our Dean's List students.

Spring 2020

- Anthony Capizzi
- Alexis Duwe
- Mae Mae
- Nicholas Ruth
- Dalton Stack
- Cecilia Zajac

Fall 2020

- Matthew Azzano
- Hannah Burns
- Kevin Calnan
- Anthony Capizzi
- Kathryn Furtney
- Ryan Jasinski
- David Kling
- Ava LaBella
- Kayla Pugh
- Tyler Putnam
- Samuel Semon
- Cecilia Zajac