

### A Note From the Chair

Greetings from Bloomington!

My first year as Chair of the Department of Geography has been eventful and productive. We have a number of things to celebrate, but for this newsletter I want to focus on our amazing students. This time of year is always exciting with the trees waking up from dormancy. We are in the middle of redbud season and the town is living up to its name with many of the plants and trees blooming. A great time of year!

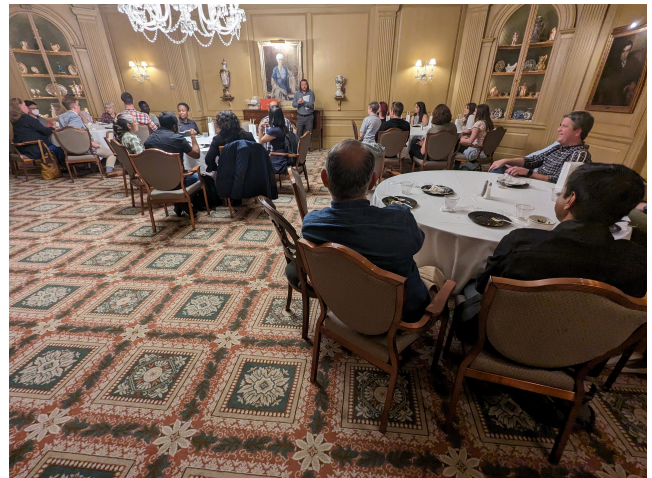


Equally as exciting are the successes of our undergraduate and graduate students. In this newsletter we celebrate those that won departmental awards and also our graduates! Many of these awards are possible because of you all. As IU Day approaches, consider donating so that we can continually provide our students the best opportunities and help them succeed in their education and careers. We are thankful and proud of our alumni, and this time of year is always a fun time to reflect on all of their successes and think about our current students and what they will accomplish.

Best wishes from Bloomington,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Justin Maxwell".

Justin Maxwell  
Associate Professor and Chair



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## Paul W. and Marie K. Baumann Scholarship

**McKenzie Bennet** is this year's recipient of the Paul W. and Marie K. Baumann Scholarship. McKenzie enjoys studying sustainable cities and sustainable practices that are Earth-friendly. She also enjoys traveling to new places and trying new foods.

Congratulations, McKenzie!



## Robert N. Johnson Scholarship



**Emily Hughes** is this year's recipient of the Robert N. Johnson Scholarship. Emily particularly loves to study the politics of resistance, and how people learn to thrive despite oppressive spaces. In Emily's free time, she loves to write, draw, and win against all of her friends in Mario Kart.

Congratulations, Emily!

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## William R. Black Leadership Memorial Scholarship

**Timothy Clark** is the recipient of the William R. Black Leadership Memorial Scholarship. Timothy transferred to IU the Fall of 2021 and joined Geography to learn important skills, develop critical thinking, and gain practical experience researching issues around international development and justice. Timothy has worked with Professor Dwyer as an Undergraduate Research Assistant and recently defended their honors thesis. The thesis paper studies the geography of acute environmental disturbances in Southwest China as the land management regime transformed from indigenous swidden cultivation to centrally planned environmental management and conservation.



## William R. Black Leadership Memorial Fellowship



This year's recipient of the William R. Black Leadership Memorial Fellowship is graduate student **Sharif Wahab**. Sharif exemplifies the sense of service to the discipline, embodied by the late W.R. Black. Sharif has significantly contributed to our department's culture of care and community.

Sharif's Geography interests: the role of the city, camp, and island in governing the everyday lives and mobilities of the Tohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

Hobbies: include watching movies, cooking, and spending time with pets.

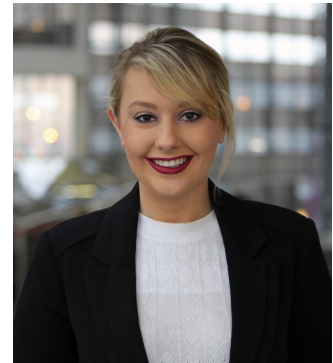
## Undergraduates Academic Excellence Awards

Thomas F. Barton Award: G107 Physical Geography	Sumner Nelson Weather
Climate Award: G109 Weather and Climate	Thomas Lillian Ding
F. Barton Award: G110 Human Geography	George Vasilarakis
Regions of the World Award: G120Regions of the World	Matthias Ament
Robert C. Kingsbury Award: G237 Mapping Our World	Luka Serici

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## John Odland Graduate Research Fellowship

**Allie Whitacare** is the recipient of the John Odland Graduate Research Fellowship. Allie's research focuses on a new form of dark tourism to refugee camps in the West Bank. *"I am currently writing my dissertation and though I don't have a lot of free time, I do enjoy spending time outside, hiking and biking around Bloomington."*



## Paper and Poster Awards

This year's recipient of the Climate Geography Paper Award is graduate student **Isioma Nwayor**.



The Indiana Geography Paper Award recipient is also to **Isioma Nwayor**. Isioma is passionate about studying the impacts of climate change on drought occurrences using drought indices and analyzing how different climate variables contribute to these changes. When not researching, you can find Isioma pursuing hobbies of weight training and hiking.

Finally, the Lester Spicer Poster Award recipients are **Cooper Skyes** and **Maddy Ausderau**.

## Outstanding Senior in Geography

This year's Outstanding Senior in Geography is **Liv Davis**. Liv became interested in Geography during their freshman year because she was able to bring together their love for science and their desire to help people. Liv wishes to apply her Geography degree to building community resilience to environmental disasters and climate change for those most vulnerable. In her free time, Liv enjoys reading, traveling, and running.



## Graduate Student Awards

### Graduate Student Teaching Award

Seth Adelsperger  
Daniel Fobi

### Geography Graduate Fellows

Helena Mello  
Thuy Ho

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## Department of Geography Undergraduate Student Research Grant and IU Day

We are getting ready for IU Day 2023, and this year's funding efforts will go towards the IUB Undergraduate Research Scholarship.

This year's recipients of our undergraduate scholarship illustrate the important and vital research being done by our undergrads in Geography at IU Bloomington.

**Samantha Hash** - Samantha Hash's project, *Defining the lived experience of hunger and precarity through food access barriers on IU Bloomington's Campus*, examines food insecurity amongst students. Supervised by Dr. Olga Kalentzidou, Samantha plans to create a survey and conduct focus group interviews to understand the reasons for food insecurity and how it is experienced by students at IU Bloomington.

**Sydney Foreman** - Sydney Foreman's project, *Seed markets, climate change, and decision making in Zambia*, develops decision support tools for Zambian smallholder farmers. Supervised by Dr. Kurt Waldman, and in collaboration with students and faculty at the University of Zambia, Sydney's research project will collect yield data, field boundaries, and household survey data to better understand how extreme weather events are impacting farmer's seed selection and sowing choices.

**Emily Hughes**: Emily Hughes' project, *The Gods that Loom Above Wealth Distribution in Rural Illinois*, examines the lives of those in rural poverty versus the middle-class in Central and Southern Illinois. Supervised by Dr. Ishan Ashutosh, Emily's project will aim to understand how the rural poor are represented, and how to challenge these accounts by researching how the rural poor thrive despite living lives represented as undesirable.

**Nick Angelos and Sidd Das** -Nick Angelos' and Sidd Das' project, *Resource Distribution for the Unhoused Community in Indiana Cities*, will map and analyze resources available to unhoused communities in the cities of Bloomington, Evansville, and Indianapolis. Supervised by Dr. Yuri Kim, Nick and Sidd anticipate presenting their research at the 2023 Indiana GIS Conference

**Please consider offering a small contribution to this year's scholarship.** Your gift helps enable students to develop investigative, communication, and outreach skills that will continue to serve them, post-graduation, in a wide variety of careers. Your support will enable the Department of Geography to sustain its commitment to fostering an environment in which undergraduate research interests in both human and physical geography can flourish.

<https://give.myiu.org/iu-bloomington/1320015912.html>

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# IU Day 2023

## **IUB GEOGRAPHY UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP**

Your gift helps support undergraduate research scholarships for students in IU Bloomington's Department of Geography. Research projects enable students to develop investigative, communication, and outreach skills that will continue to serve them, post-graduation, in a wide variety of careers. Your support will enable the Department of Geography to sustain its commitment to fostering an environment in which undergraduate research interests in both human and physical geography can flourish.

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# Congratulations to the Geography Class of 2023!

## *Our Undergraduate Students*

May, 2023

Nicholar Angelos, BA

Amy Becker, BA

Matthias Benko, BA

Olivia Campbell, BA

Levi Carey, BA

Timothy Clark, BS

Live Davis, BA

Isaac Mabry, BA

Christopher Newlin, BA

August, 2023

Joseph Cummings, BS

## *Our Graduate Students*

Aijaz Abdul, PhD

Mahsa Khodae, PhD

Ben Lockwood, PhD

Maria Steenberger, MA

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## Friends of the Department of Geography, 2023

James & Mary Babb

Barbara & Paul Baumann

Donna Black

Joanne Breedlove

Angele & Paul Byskosh

Sherry Corbitt-Warren & Andre Warren

David Chapman & Marsha Selmer

Joseph & Sharon Dearing

Daniel & Donna Dull

Tae Hee Hwang

Robert & Trinh Johnson

Karen Kiefer

Dan & Linda Knudsen

Daniel Knuth

Daniel Koch

Andrew Krmeneč

Zachary Machunda & Phyllis May-Machunda

David Meltz

Paul McGinley

John & Bonnie Owen

Mary & Stephen Pawlow

Bill & Kathleen Pershing

Richard Piecewicz

Beatriz Richter

Corey and Jennifer Rusk

Steven Scheumann

Robert & Susan Schwartz

Eric Schweitzer

Antonio Tebesceff

Louis Trapasso

Susan McKinney Wilcox & Eric Wilcox