

Congratulations to the Geography Class of 2020!

We would like to congratulate all of our undergraduate and graduate students that are graduating in 2020. We are very proud of our graduates and this achievement is particularly worth celebrating this year given the challenges related to the coronavirus. While we normally have a luncheon to celebrate our graduates, that is not possible this year. Therefore, we have created a special newsletter in their honor and will be honoring them on our website as well. While, we miss the in person celebration, we are just as excited about their future. The following are comments from faculty and instructors about how great our graduates really are.

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Our Undergraduates

Austin Abbring

Austin's kindness and thoughtful contributions to class made the dynamic of the classes he was enrolled in so much better. Congratulations Austin!

Chiara Bangor-Giorgio

Chiara is bound to change the way we think about Gary, Indiana. And more broadly, how we think and talk about environmental racism and what it does to particular cities. She has shown what it means to take an interest, develop an argument, and present it in a compelling manner to her peers. Chiara is a fantastic student, a thoughtful research assistant, and all around wonderful human. Thank you Chiara for all your work towards environmental and housing justice! Congratulations Chiara!



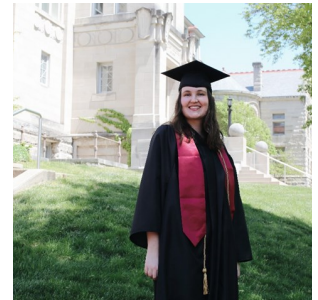
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John Diedrich

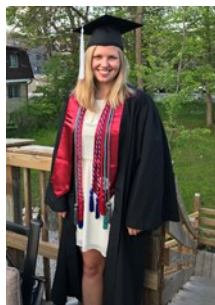
John was part of the crack mapping team for this year's senior capstone project on the energy burden and affordable housing in Bloomington. He put together a fantastic analysis that will be useful for the City of Bloomington, despite setbacks due to COVID-19 and other obstacles, he is a great problem solver. John also has wonderful taste in dinosaur costumes. Congratulations John!

Emma Freestone

Emma was great to have in class, asking thoughtful questions that helped clarify important points for the rest of the class. Emma also has a strong work ethic and is very involved with the community. She has a bright future. Congratulations Emma!



Anna Groover



Anna was an exceptional student, who would readily weave together novels, popular culture, and critical social theory in class discussions. Anna was already a gifted writer, throughout her time here we got to watch her become a dogged interviewer and sharp analyst. She had multiple majors, which means that she is the quintessential geographer. Congratulations Anna!

Brogan Hagemeyer

Brogan has a thoughtful approach to geography and he is a careful researcher. Brogan is also practical and has a get it done attitude, which is the best! Congratulations Brogan!

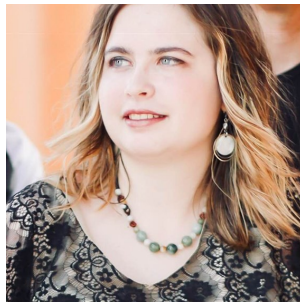
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Laxmi Palde

Laxmi has done Masters level work for her undergraduate senior thesis on the connections between farm justice and diet related disease. Working together on the thesis has been a privilege and a joy. Congratulations Laxmi!



Ariana Roberts



Ari brought to the class a mix of real-world international experience and sharp observation skills. Her contributions to class discussions were meaningful and helped us get the most out of these discussions. Congratulations Ariana!

Jesse Sasser

Jesse asks good questions in class and always had a good handle on the big picture of why we were doing what we were doing. Jesse could transform a class. He would transform it into a class on Marxism, and in particular, on the exploitation inherent in wage labor and how our alienation became symptomatic of our society. You could try to discuss these issues with him, but he was usually cruising by you on his bike— so good luck! Congratulations Jesse!

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Erin Lasher



Erin is rock solid, very focused, and knows her stuff. She always is prepared and consistently has good insight. She has been a strong contributor to the work of the Environmental Resilience Institute through the Resilience Cohort program. She went above and beyond by completing an outstanding final project in the COVID-19 period with the intent of informing city leaders in Evansville about the impacts of climate change on the city. Erin brought so many professional skills and experience to her classes. Congratulations Erin!

Our Graduates

Meghan Engh

For her Master's thesis, Meghan Engh is exploring the presence and distribution of stream temperature surges throughout the United States, a phenomenon that is under-studied. Throughout her time at IU, Meghan's cheery disposition was infectious, and her cookies resulted in can't-miss colloquiums. Congratulations Meghan!



Jessica Fan

Jessica wrote her dissertation on the ways children of immigrants utilize the spaces of their everyday experience (home, school, community centers) to build identities distinct from their parents. Her work was at times funny, poignant and sad, but always fascinating. It was an honor to be her supervisor. Congratulations Jessica!