

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **The American Geographical Society Awards 2017 Council Fellowships**

*Description: The American Geographical Society (AGS) has announced has the awardees to receive its 2017 AGS Council Fellowship.*

[New York City, NY] – [April 3 2017] — The American Geographical Society (AGS) announced today the recipients of the 2017 AGS Council Fellowships to support graduate student research. The recipients are Ms. Subarna Chatterjee, a Ph.D student at Kansas State University, Mr. Jordan Cissell, a Ph.D student at the University of Alabama, Mr. Jedd Sankar-Gorton, a Ph.D student at University of Montana and Ms. Dara Seidl, a Ph.D. student at San Diego State University. The winners were selected from a highly competitive field of applicants. The fellowship recipients will be recognized at the American Geographical Society's Fall Symposium to be held at Columbia University in New York City on November 16th and 17th of 2017. In addition, recipients have the opportunity to submit their completed work to the *Geographical Review* and *Focus on Geography* publications.

For Ms. Chatterjee, the fellowship will fund her Ph.D dissertation "Reducing Climate Change Vulnerability Through Adaptation with Particular Reference to Migration: A Study in the Indian Subdarbans." In a recent interview with AGS, Ms. Chatterjee noted, "...a great honor for me. This Fellowship will certainly go a long way towards shaping my vision as a Geographer and will serve as a strong stepping stone for fulfilling my commitment to serve mankind through my work".

Mr. Cissell's fellowship will also fund his Ph.D dissertation "Mangrove Change Detection and Habitat Mapping in Zapata Swamp, Cuba, Using Remote Sensing and Local Knowledge." He stated, "I am incredibly honored and humbled to be selected as a recipient of the 2017 AGS Council Fellowship, and thoroughly appreciative of the opportunity it provides to travel to Zapata Swamp, Cuba, and conduct field work later this spring. Throughout the course of my graduate study, I have developed a tremendous amount of admiration and respect for both the beauty and importance of coastal wetland ecosystems, and this project presents the exciting opportunity to examine a critical ecosystem on the cusp of a period of potentially explosive economic and infrastructural development. I cannot wait to get down there and explore a topic that so thoroughly meshes human and environmental change dynamics! Thank you very much to the AGS for their generous support."

Additionally, Mr. Sankar-Gorton will use the funds to support his Ph.D dissertation "The Impacts on Amenity Migration in and Around Slovenia's Triglav National Parks." Sankar-Gorton has told AGS that his research will focus on the implications of increasing use by traditional and new user groups for protected area planning and governance. Mr. Sankar-Gorton added, "I will look to build a better understanding of these issues to improve the efficacy of future planning and governance in mountainous areas. This study is also an opportunity to continue the seemingly fading tradition of geographers doing real fieldwork. This is a worthy cause as we move deeper

into the era of remote sensing and funding cuts and I look forward to the chance to get out into the field.”

Ms. Seidl will use her funding to continue her study, “Personal Geomasking Behavior of Internet Users.” Based on a recent interview with Ms. Seidl, her research examines personal location masking behavior through an online survey, focusing on both the precision and accuracy of location information Internet users opt to provide when asked. Ms. Seidl noted, “The study contributes to geo-privacy research by addressing geomasking from the perspectives of individual Internet users, as well as explores potential drivers for concealing location. In particular, the funds will support a pilot study targeting individual-level attempts to protect location privacy online.”

“These scholars were selected from a competitive pool of 33 applicants from Masters and Doctoral programs at 25 different universities in the United States” said Dr. Marie Price, the Chair of the Selection Committee and President of AGS. “The lifeblood of geography is exploration and discovery,” Price added. “These students are engaged in important scientific research around the world and through these efforts new geographic knowledge and understanding will be produced. The American Geographical Society supports research, especially the work of our graduate student members.”

Established in 1851, the American Geographical Society (AGS) is the oldest professional geographical organization in the United States. It is recognized world-wide as a pioneer in geographical research and education in Geography for over 165 years. The mission of the American Geographical Society is to advance and promote geography in business, government, science, and education. Our goal is to enhance the nation’s geographic literacy so as to engender sound public policy, national security, and human well-being worldwide. AGS seeks to engage the American public, from its youngest to its oldest citizens, with new and amazing ways to understand and characterize our changing world. The Society maintains its headquarters in Brooklyn Heights, New York.



*Ms. Subarna Chatterjee*

*Kansas State University*



*Mr. Jordan Cissell*

*University of Alabama*



*Mr. Jedd Sankar-Gorton*

*University of Montana*



*Ms. Dara Seidl*

*San Diego State University*

Contact Information:

American Geographical Society

32 Court Street

Brooklyn Heights, NY 11201-4404

Telephone: 917-745-8354

Email: [ags@americangeo.org](mailto:ags@americangeo.org)

[www.americangeo.org](http://www.americangeo.org)



###