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EDUCATION

- BA University of Kentucky | College of Arts & Sciences | Lewis Honors College** **May 2023**
Environmental & Sustainability Studies
Graduated: *Summa Cum Laude*
GPA: 4.0
- BA University of Kentucky | College of Arts & Sciences | Lewis Honors College** **May 2023**
Geography (with minor in Mapping & GIS)
Graduated: *Summa Cum Laude*
GPA: 4.0
- BA University of Kentucky | College of Arts & Sciences | Lewis Honors College.** **May 2023**
International Studies
Graduated: *Summa Cum Laude*
GPA: 4.0

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Ellen Churchill Semple Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Research Paper** **2023**
Awarded for an outstanding undergraduate research paper on any theme in geography
- Gyula Pauer Cartography Award** **2023**
Awarded for an outstanding portfolio of maps demonstrating technical skill and professional maturity in cartography
- Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF)** **2022**
Research fellowship awarded to undergraduates undertaking independent research with a faculty mentor during the summer
- Raitz Scholarship** **2022**
Awarded to support academic merit and inclusivity among undergraduates in the Department of Geography
- Gamma Theta Upsilon Honor Society** **2022 – present**
International geographic honor society; requires being in the top 35% of the class
- Joseph R. Schwendeman Award** **2021 & 2022 & 2023**
Awarded for the highest GPA in the Department of Geography
- Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society** **2021 – 2022**
Multidisciplinary national collegiate honor society; requires being in the top 7.5 % of the class (for juniors)
- Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society** **2020 – present**
National collegiate honor society that recognizes and supports first-year success; requires 3.5 GPA or higher
- Dean's List** **2019 – 2023**
Awarded for a GPA of 3.6 or higher and at having least 12 credit hours of coursework taken per semester
- Otis A. Singletary Scholarship** **2019 – 2023**
Highest merit-based full-tuition scholarship awarded to incoming undergraduates for the length of their degree. Highly competitive and selective with only 20-25 incoming freshman receiving the award per year

RESEARCH & OTHER EXPERIENCES

Mapshop

July 2021 – July 2023

University of Kentucky

Role: Cartographer & Research Assistant

Advisor/supervisor: Dr. Matthew W. Wilson

- Mapped urban tree canopy cover in Lexington, KY
- Analyzed and mapped differences in the 2010 and 2020 decennial census for Kentucky
- Investigated and mapped Lexington's current and historical urban services boundaries
- Maps and data featured on project website: <https://mapshop.as.uky.edu>

Undergraduate Research Thesis - Geography

January – May 2023

University of Kentucky

Role: Student Researcher

Advisor/supervisor: Dr. Ted Schatzki

- Conducted independent study analyzing the perception of the nature as an entity or place and as related to restoration ecologies through the lens of two actors: local Appalachians and those beyond Appalachia
- Title: "Natural Realities: An Exploration of Perceptions on the Nature and Characterization of Restoration Ecologies Related to Mountaintop Removal (MTR) Mining in Eastern Kentucky"

Undergraduate Research Thesis – International Studies

January – May 2023

University of Kentucky

Role: Student Researcher

Advisor/supervisor: Dr. Diana E. King

- Conducted independent study analyzing the perception of the nature as an entity or place and as related to restoration ecologies through the lens of two actors: local Appalachians and those beyond Appalachia
- Title: "Towards a Green Solace: Collective Identity, Sustainability, and Wishes for a New World"

Documenting Racialized Violence in Kentucky (DRVK) Internship

September 2021 to May 2023

University of Kentucky

Role: Intern, Cartographer, ARC/GIS Undergraduate Director of Mapping

Advisors/supervisors: Dr. Lynn Phillips, Dr. Nikki Brown, Dr. Melanie Goan

- Made 20+ maps illustrating incidents of lynching, demographics changes in the black population, sundown towns, and night riders in Kentucky
- Maps featured on project website: <https://drvk.createuky.net>

Cartography Commission

January 2023

Scripps College

Role: Cartographer

Commissioner: Dr. Wendy Cheng

- Designed map visualizing incidents of campus spying in various U.S. universities
- Map included in Dr. Cheng's recent book, *Island X: Taiwanese Student Migrants, Campus Spies, and Cold War Activism*

Cartography Commission

October 2022

University of Kentucky

Role: Cartographer

Commissioner: Dr. Lydia Pelot-Hobbs

- Designed map illustrating carceral and freedom sites in New Orleans
- Map presented at the annual American Studies Association conference in the fall of 2023

Summer Research Undergraduate Fellowship (SURF)

May 2022 – August 2022

University of Kentucky

Role: Student Researcher

Advisor/supervisor: Dr. Nari Senanayake

- Conducted research on the perception of nature as connected to mountaintop removal reclamation sites and the construction of nature as a social and physical entity
- Research presented at the Summer Undergraduate Research + Creative Symposium
- Title: “Prismed Natures? Ties between the Reclamation of Mountaintop Removal Mining Sites and the Construction of Nature in Appalachia and Beyond”

Paul Edwin Potter Internship

May 2022 – July 2022

University of Kentucky, Kentucky Geological Survey

Role: Full-time Intern, Student Researcher, Cartographer

Advisor/supervisor: Dr. William Haneberg

- Mapped over 800 landslides in six mountaintop removal mine sites in eastern Kentucky with a focus on environmental justice
- Research presented at the KGS Paul Edwin Potter Interns’ Showcase (poster presentation)
- Title: “From Perished Peaks to Sliding Slopes: Mapping Landslides and Environmental Justice on Select Mountaintop Removal Sites in Eastern Kentucky”

Undergraduate Research Thesis – Environmental & Sustainability Studies

January – May 2022

University of Kentucky

Role: Student Researcher

Advisor/supervisor: Dr. Betsy Beymer-Farris

- Conducted independent research on the nuances, benefits, and implications of implementing silvopasture as a method to pasturing livestock
- Research presented to a panel of Alltech employees at Alltech’s headquarters in Lexington, KY
- Title: “Sliver Amongst the Forest: A Guide to Silvopasture in Kentucky”

Cartography Commission

June – July 2021

University of Kentucky

Role: Cartographer

Commissioner: Dr. Nari Senanayake

- Redesigned map of Sri Lanka’s CKDu hotspots and agroecological zones
- Map published in: Senanayake, N. (2021) Theorising liminal states of health: A spatio-temporal analysis of undiagnosis and anticipatory diagnosis in the shadow of toxic pollution. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 00, 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.1111/tran.12504>

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS, LEADERSHIP, & SERVICE

Kentucky Student Environmental Coalition, Lexington, KY

August 2022– present

Position: Community member (current), Greenthumb connection

- Community organization focused on environmental sustainability activism and outreach
- Currently serving as a community member during restructuring

Sri Lankan Student Association (SLSA), University of Kentucky

August 2021 – present

Position: Community member, EMS (Event Management System)/Events Officer, Undergraduate Representation

- University and community organization for those who identify as Sri Lankan and/or are interested in Sri Lanka
- Currently a community member, previously aided in events and designing an annual newsletter

Greenthumb, University of Kentucky

August 2020 – May 2023

Position: Lead coordinator, Secretary, Co-Outreach Coordinator

- University student sustainability organization
- Managed restructuring and rebuilding as lead coordinator, took minutes of meetings, and aided in community outreach and recruitment

Sustainability Future Leaders, University of Kentucky

October 2021 – May 2023

Position: EMS Officer

- University student sustainability organization
- Served in managing events and aiding with general organization matters

Philharmonia Orchestra, University of Kentucky

August 2019 – April 2021

Position: 2nd violinist

- University orchestra

Sierra Club Climate Justice League, Sierra Club

February – May 2020

Position: Student Fellow

- Program within the Sierra Club for training young climate activists

Girls Group, Urban Impact

September – December 2019

Position: Volunteer

- After school non-profit organization for grade school that provides academic help and enrichment
- Served as a Girls Group volunteer for evening gatherings and activities

LANGUAGES

Sinhala: native language, native fluency in all areas

English: second language, native fluency in all areas

Spanish & Korean: intermediate & novice in all areas, respectively

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Interests: environmental science, sustainability, human-nature relations, environmental thought and understanding, environmental justice, critical/feminist/post-humanist geographies, political ecology, connections between epistemology/ideology and environmental management

HOBBIES & OTHER ACTIVITIES

Reading: avid reader of fiction, non-fiction, and academic books

Writing: writer of 16 years (mostly short stories but currently working on two fantasy novels) and poet (select poems published from ages 11-14)

Music & dance: violinist of 11 years (accolades won for first 7 years, but currently on hiatus due to injury) and casual dancer (mostly traditional Sri Lankan dances)

Handcrafts: sewing, embroidery, & crocheting (influences from my grandmother) and trinket crafting

Art: sketching and painting

Coding: amateur website creation using CSS and HTML, beginner in Python for ArcGIS Pro (arcpy)

Photography: hobbyist photographer