**Student Spotlights - Geography**

Fall 2020 classes are about to start, and undergrad students Sarah Frost and Kyle Bals are ready! We asked them to share why they chose to major in geography, what they’ve learned, future goals, and more.

**Geography: Why did you choose to take geography classes and/or major in geography?**

**Frost:**  The first geography class I took was called Environmental Geography taught by Joseph Hobbs — it was my first semester of sophomore year. I stumbled into the class to fill my required credits, but by the time Hobbs finished summarizing the types of research he'd conducted over the years, I was sold. I wasn't sure about career opportunities, though, and didn't formally switch into the major until the summer before my junior year.

I wish I'd declared geography sooner! I chose this as a career path because it's the only field I've found that doesn't ask me to narrow my interests, to choose one at the expense of another. I enjoy studying topics across the board, from humanities and environmental health to mathematics and engineering. With geography, I can investigate any curiosity and tag-team with just about any other field in an engaging and meaningful way.

**Daubitz:** I took my first geography class when I was a freshman trying to fill my general education requirements. I didn’t take another one until second semester of my sophomore year. At that time I was looking for a minor to add to my political science major. Those two classes showed me how much I loved studying in the field and the department here at A&S. After that, I completely switched to earning a degree in geography. My mom pointed out to me, after I told both of my parents I had changed my major, that I’d been drawing maps and pointing out weird geography facts since I was very young! She said a choosing geography as my major “took me long enough.”

**What do you enjoy most about geography?**

**Frost:** Opportunity! Applicability! You'll not only learn new information but new ways to process information and how to use that knowledge to understand the world around you. For me, the biggest draw of geography is that it synthesizes the specific and the broad, the in-depth and the general, in a way that keeps me curious and continually introduces me to new ideas.

**Daubitz:** What I love most about geography is just how fascinating it is. I understand that sounds very vague so allow me to try to explain. There’s so much depth in the field and always more to discover. There is always something to find, whether it be a new pattern in the natural world or evolving patterns in how humans develop and change the world around us. It allows humans to better understand an ever-changing world and I love that.