

The Alexander von Humboldt Medallion Award for Excellence in Geography

This award—a gold medallion—will be formally presented by the Dean of the College during the Medallion Award Ceremony during Graduation Weekend. The award winner will also be recognized at the Department Graduation Ceremony with a certificate and small gift from the Environmental Faculty and Department Chair.



Purpose: The Alexander von Humboldt Award is to be granted annually to an exceptional undergraduate student upon completion of their studies in the field of Geography.

Criteria: The Alexander von Humboldt will be conferred upon a student completing their major course of studies in Geography at the discretion of the faculty of the Department of Geography and the Environmental. It will be bestowed upon a Geography major who has achieved the highest cumulative GPA in courses that compose his/her major. The award is conferred at the discretion of the Department Chair based on the recommendation of the Environmental Faculty, and after a formal review and vote by the entire Department faculty. The award will not be presented to a student in the Geography Minor.

Background: *The Alexander von Humboldt Award for Excellence in the Environment* honors Alexander von Humboldt (1759-1869), a German naturalist and explorer, was once described as the last universal scholar in the field of the natural sciences. A botanist, zoologist, author, cartographer, artist, and sociologist, Humboldt's quantitative work on botanical geography was foundational to the field of biogeography. Between 1799 and 1804, Humboldt traveled extensively in Latin America, exploring and describing it for the first time in a manner generally considered to be a modern scientific point of view. His description of the journey was written up and published in an enormous set of volumes over 21 years. He was one of the first to propose that the lands bordering the Atlantic Ocean were once joined (South America and Africa in particular). Later, his five-volume work, *Kosmos* (1845), attempted to unify the various branches of scientific knowledge. Humboldt supported and worked with other scientists, including Joseph-Louis Gay-Lussac, Justus von Liebig, Louis Agassiz, and Matthew Fontaine Maury with whom he conducted much of his scientific exploration.

AWARD WINNERS

2008 Ensign Nicholas S. Andrejack

2009 Mr. Ian J. Guenther



VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

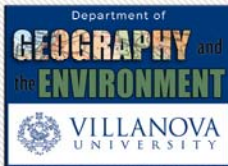


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Alexander von Humboldt

Alexander von Humboldt
1769-1859

Alexander von Humboldt is widely respected as one of the founders of modern geography. His travels, experiments, and knowledge transformed western science in the nineteenth century.



This medallion award is presented to the graduating Geography major, upon recommendation of the faculty, who achieves the highest grades and consistently demonstrates distinguished academic achievement throughout their studies at Villanova University.

Ensign Nicholas S. Andrejack
Geography
2008

Mr. Ian J. Guenther
Geography
2009

