USGIF annually awards scholarships to promising high school seniors, and collegiate undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students studying or planning to study geospatial intelligence related fields.

All scholarship recipients are chosen based on their academic and professional excellence in a field related to the geospatial intelligence trade craft. Qualified candidates are selected by the Foundation’s Scholarship Subcommittee, composed of USGIF member organizations.

In the past 9 years, USGIF has awarded $584,000 to exceptional students. This year, USGIF awarded $104,000 to 25 recipients: 5 Ph.D. candidates, 6 master’s candidates, 7 undergraduates and 7 high school seniors.

To apply for a scholarship, visit www.usgif.org

### DOCTORATE

#### RAECHEL BIANCHETTI
*Pennsylvania State University*

Raechel is a graduate assistant in the Penn State GeoVISTA Research Center working under Dr. Alan MacEachren on a project for the Department of Homeland Security involving the cognitive effects of emergency management map symbol design. Her dissertation research integrates remote sensing, geovisual analytics, and cognitive GIScience towards improved visual interpretation of data sources for creating situational awareness.

#### KATARINA DOCTOR
*George Mason University*

Katarina is a pilot with experience flying scientific missions such as aerial surveys of coastal Virginia post-Hurricane Irene as well as ancient Mayan agricultural fields in Belize. She is currently working with the Naval Research Laboratory through the Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP). Her doctoral research involves developing algorithms for anomaly detection by fusing hyperspectral imagery with thermal, LiDAR, and radar data.

#### DAVID KELBE
*Rochester Institute of Technology*

David Kelbe earned his bachelor’s degree in imaging science from Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in 2010 and is currently a graduate student in RIT’s Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science. Kelbe was recently recognized for his project, “Linking the Real and Simulation Environments of Airborne Small Footprint Waveform Lidar.” He is working closely with collaborators at the National Ecological Observatory Network. He travels internationally to volunteer in various capacities and also serves as a teaching assistant and mentor on the RIT campus.

#### LEANNE SULEWSKI
*University of South Carolina*

Leanne has worked for the South Carolina Army National Guard as a GIS analyst, training Joint Operations Center personnel basic GIS functions and map production, and also creating custom analytical products for briefings. At USC she has utilized UAV Synthetic Aperture Radar data from NASA to create a model predicting BP oil spill movement based on wind direction data, and is working to create a more holistic framework for analyzing energy infrastructure vulnerability.

#### ANDREW THORPE
*University of California, Santa Barbara*

Andrew followed up undergraduate studies at Brown University with a year studying the climate evolution of Mars at the Institute of Geosciences, Planetology and Remote Sensing at the Free University in Berlin. His dissertation research aims to improve methods for detecting absorption features of atmospheric greenhouse gasses, thereby permitting high-resolution mapping of local emissions and improving classification methods for complex urban environments.

#### SHAWN BALDWIN
*University of Southern California*

Shawn has two decades of cartographic experience, now evolved to include interactive and dynamic map products. He is currently supporting the GEOINT Community with development of vehicular and flight simulation products. His graduate research integrates cartography with project management techniques, developing a comprehensive database of medical facilities—a critical need for homeland security purposes.

#### SARA FLECHER
*University of South Carolina*

Sara is a research assistant supporting analysis of microclimatological impacts of agricultural practices. Her prior experiences provided exposure to the challenges of massive data management, infrastructure limitations, legacy systems variability, and the need for process standardization. Her thesis research involves development of a web-based geospatial tool for sugarcane farmers to improve crop-burning practices and mitigate adverse impacts on the health of the surrounding communities.

#### DANIEL GIORDANO
*University of Maryland*

Daniel is currently an Intelligence Analyst with the FBI, working in counterterrorism, counterintelligence, and weapons proliferation. While an undergraduate student at George Washington University, he began to appreciate the value of GIS for assessing risk, visualizing possible outcomes, and presenting complex information in a comprehensible way. His graduate studies in GIS at the University of Maryland are enhancing his ability to integrate the geospatial context within his analyses.

#### NICOLE GRAMS
*University of Oklahoma*

Nicole is a prior recipient of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship, which allowed her to intern with the Storm Surge Unit at the National Hurricane Center. She is currently a graduate assistant working with Dr. May Yan in the Center for Spatial Analysis on verification of the Coastal and Inland Flooding Observation and Warning (CI-FLOW) project using remote sensing and GIS techniques.

#### NOUMAN HUSSAIN
*Pennsylvania State University*

Nouman works as an AIPak Media Analyst for ConStrat, leveraging his expertise with Urdu, Farsi, Hindi, and Punjabi in support of a contract with U.S. CENTCOM. At Penn State he is augmenting his strengths in the social sciences with geospatial capabilities in remote sensing and GIS, recognizing the importance of geospatial intelligence to address emerging demands for analysis, collection, and dissemination of information regarding locations affected by conflict, natural disaster, and humanitarian crises.

#### JORDAN LAWVER
*Ohio State University*

Jordan is currently working with the OSU Center for Surveillance Research and the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) towards creation of a geometrically constrained persistent tracking algorithm robust to occlusion and projective anomalies. He previously served with the OSU Mapping & GIS Laboratory supporting NASA Mars Exploration Rover and Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter missions, and he served with the Photogrammetric Computer Vision Laboratory where he built an algorithm for 3D-recovery in automated surveillance algorithms.
to apply the GEOINT approach to earth science as increasingly valuable for scientific research and is seeking further ways to apply the GEOINT approach to earth science.

**TANYA PETACH**  
*Harvard University*

Tanya is an environmental engineering major currently working at Harvard’s MacDonald Lab in Geology. Here she is correlating satellite imagery with field data to produce more accurate geological mapping of the Mongolian steppe. Tanya perceives geospatial science and technology as increasingly valuable for scientific research and is seeking further ways to apply the GEOINT approach to earth science.

**KYLE SMITH**  
*James Madison University*

Kyle is a geographic science major with a minor in anthropology. He also has work experience at the Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) Topographic Engineering Center (TEC) through the Student Career Employment Program. He seeks to improve the ability to use remotely sensed imagery for deriving socio-cultural information regarding settlement morphology.

**EVERLEIGH ELIZABETH STOKES**  
*Pennsylvania State University*

Everleigh is a geography major with a bioethics and medical humanities minor, and she is a member of the highly selectively Penn State Presidential Leadership Academy. She has interned for the Community Development Department of Albemarle County, VA. She aims to become a medical geographer working to eradicate infectious disease in developing nations.