

Geography Undergraduate, Gavin Derleth, Receives Luther Rice Fellowship

A geography junior, Gavin Derleth, received a Luther Rice Fellowship from the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences to continue his research on neighborhood effects of gentrification in Washington, DC. Associate Dean and Professor of Geography, Dr. Elizabeth Chacko, will be his advisor for the research which will be conducted in the summer of 2019. Professor Marie Price, the interim Chair of Geography, said "this is one of the most prestigious undergraduate research awards that CCAS offers. And we are delighted that Gavin was selected."

In October of 2018 Gavin presented his original research on gentrification in Columbia Heights at the Race, Ethnicity, and Place Conference in Austin, Texas. This summer he will be studying the effects of gentrification on different neighborhoods within Washington DC. The goal of this work is to gain a fuller understanding of the factors driving gentrification and the effects of gentrification on individuals and communities. He will employ a mixed-methods approach, using both interviews with community based organizations and mapping socio-demographic changes over time using census tract analysis. Gavin hopes that the community maps he creates will help residents advocate for resources that are critical for maintaining their communities. "Overall, it will be a great opportunity to contribute to the research about gentrification in cities like DC, while helping the communities which are threatened most by this kind of economic and commercial development" said Gavin. The Luther Rice Fellowship is awarded to CCAS Juniors and Seniors to conduct independent research with a faculty member.