



CHRISTOPHER PICARD

Zeta '23 (*Dartmouth*)

Masters Degree (MA, MS, MBA) in Geography
University of Colorado Boulder

Henry B Poor, Gamma 1939 Award

In August 2017,
**Christopher
Picard** received

the Edward G. Detmer Scholarship based on his academic and athletic performance at Concord High School in New Hampshire. He went on to attend Tabor Academy, an independent preparatory school located in Marion, Massachusetts that is known for its marine science courses. His activities and societies included Senior Class Co-President, Dorm Proctor, Cum Laude Society, varsity ice hockey, and varsity lacrosse. In 2018, He won The James Gowing Award for Outstanding Personal Responsibility and went on to Dartmouth the following year.

Chris participated in a variety of activities during his time at Dartmouth, such as Phi Beta Kappa, Psi Upsilon, John French Society, Men's Club Ice Hockey, and Sexual Assault Peer Alliance (SAPA), where he was trained to provide informed, empathic, and empowerment-based support to Dartmouth peers impacted by sexual and gender-based violence. He further served his community by volunteering as a cook at Hanover Community Kitchen.

A member of the American Association of Geographers since 2020, Chris presented his research at their annual meeting in 2021. He has also presented research at meetings of the American Geophysical Union and American Meteorological Society. He entered the National Weather Service's William M. LaPenta Internship Program at National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in 2022, where he spent the summer with U.S. National Ice Center (USNIC) and was pronounced an indispensable aspect of research to operations efforts, according to Snow and Ice Product Area Lead Walter Clark. He describes

Chris as an exemplary employee, having exhibited the highest level of research and academic integrity within his project.

For three of his years at Dartmouth, Chris was an Undergraduate Research Assistant in the Applied Hydroclimatology Honors Research Group. His paper, Twenty-first century increases in total and extreme precipitation across the Northeastern USA, was published in May 2023. In the middle of completing his senior thesis, Quantifying surface elevation change and accumulation rates on the Greenland Ice Sheet using the ICESat-2 laser altimeter, Chris was the captain of the hockey team and continued to lead officer meetings as President of the Zeta chapter of Psi Upsilon. He was awarded the United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (USGIF) Graduate Scholarship that same year, and graduated Magna Cum Laude with the designation of Rufus Choate Scholar.

The University of Colorado Boulder's Department of Geography appealed to Chris because of the large amount of impactful research this institution produces each year and the opportunity to be advised by former NASA Chief Scientist Dr. Waleed Abdalati, who now runs the Cooperative Institute for Research in the Environmental Sciences. During Chris' first year as a graduate student, University of Colorado Boulder received \$684.2 million in research funding. This institution is on the cutting edge of scientific

**“I want to become a great scientist,
but I also want to be a leader.”**

discovery, and right where Christopher Picard wants to be. He is already among the top 2% of graduate students in his program. His research and studies are focused on the Arctic climate system and sea ice cover. Specifically, he is interested in using satellite remote sensing to estimate the thickness of sea ice and the total volume of sea ice exported out of the Arctic.

Brother Picard is described by the chair of the Geography department at UC Boulder as a highly accomplished, knowledgeable, and inquisitive student. He asks pertinent, thought-provoking questions and completes his assignments with exceptional attention to detail and thoughtfulness, expressing a clear interest and thirst for knowledge. In ten years, he hopes to be a pioneer in the Arctic sciences, doing impactful research that fascinates academics and can be easily understood by the broader public. His proposed research on Arctic sea ice has a range of implications for oceanic circulation and the climate, affecting countless people, animals, and habitats across the globe.

(1) <https://www.epa.gov/climateimpacts/climate-change-and-human-health#:~:text=The%20health%20effects%20of%20climate,and%20overall%20poor%20mental%20health.>

(2) * "Whillans Ice Stream" *Encyclopedia Britannica*

(3) Andy Aschwanden et al., *Contribution of the Greenland Ice Sheet to sea level over the next millennium. Sci. Adv.* 5, eaav9396 (2019). DOI:10.1126/sciadv.aav9396