



# G E O G R A P H Y

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# ALUMNI

## Chris Aldana

Geographically speaking, where do you come from?

*My entire family originates from Guatemala City, Guatemala. My parents and siblings immigrated to the U.S. in the late 70s. Nearly a decade later I was born.*

How did you become interested in Geography?

*I can credit two significant events. The first was reading a book titled "Guns, Germs, and Steel: the Fates of Human Societies" by Jared Diamond. The second occurred a few years later in a college classroom where an inspirational professor left a lasting impression on me and motivated me to want to see the world and experience life as a geographer.*

Where are you studying Geography now? How is Geography there different than at Cerritos?

*I recently graduated from CSULB. The only difference in geography is the workload. I found myself having to manage time wisely to that I could read and write a bit more.*

What type of Geography are you studying now? Do you have a specialty? Any research experience? If so, tell us about it.

*I chose Human Geography as my concentration. However, there is a possibility that one may earn either a GIS or urban studies certificate concurrently. So as my specialty I chose Urban Studies. My second semester, I had the opportunity to work on an individual research project regarding urban tree canopy coverage and the effect of urban heat islands. The personal project took a lot of research but being able to submit my result into the Green Generation Mixer for review is probably one of my highlight experiences at CSULB so far.*

What would you tell a student at Cerritos College interested in potentially majoring in Geography?

*I am sure, as any potential geography knows by now the discipline consists of a lot more than memorizing cities and capitals and at the university level the discipline gets even more interesting. It becomes less sugar-coated and raw. The geography departments at all universities are waiting for you with open arms.*

What do you hope to do professionally once you have your Geography degree?

*I am an inner-city kid, and as a student of urban geography, I am acutely aware of the changes, for better or worse, occurring in the neighborhoods where I grew up. I'm currently pursuing a Master's in Public Administration at CSULB.*

