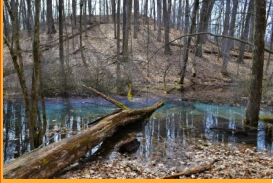


# Fall 2019 Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2019



## DEPARTMENT FACULTY & STAFF

Dr. Matthew Altenritter

Dr. Kathryn Amatangelo

Dr. Michael Chislock

Ms. Andie Graham

Dr. James Haynes

Dr. Courtney McDaniel

Dr. Chris Norment

Mrs. Crystal Nutty

Norma Polizzi, Esq.

Dr. Jacques Rinchar

Dr. Rachel Schultz

Dr. Jacob Straub

Dr. Doug Wilcox

## Message from the Chair

Dear students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends...

After six outstanding years of inspiring leadership, Dr. Christopher Norment stepped down as Chair of our department and is now back to full-time teaching and research. Under his direction, our department has flourished, and has been transformed through the hiring of four new faculty. It is now my privilege to serve as Chair and I look forward to maintaining and building upon these achievements.

So, let me start with some great news... The department is delighted to welcome Dr. Matthew Altenritter as our new fisheries scientist, and Mrs. Crystal Nutty as our new secretary. We also would like to welcome Nathan, the son of Courtney and Matt McDaniel, and Dr. Jake Straub, adjunct lecturer, who is teaching our ecology labs this semester. Dr. McDaniel is on maternity leave this fall, but if you see her and Nathan wandering in Lennon Hall, congratulate them. The department is also thrilled by the successful tenure review of Dr. Kathryn Amatangelo, and her promotion to Associate Professor. Congratulations also to Andie Graham, as she is now a Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner-in training under the Society for Ecological Restoration.

Last spring, the department hosted its second alumni reunion at the Hamlin Beach State Park. More than forty alumni were able to participate and made this day a success. Talking about alumni, we recently launched our alumni website at <https://sunnybrockportenv.weebly.com>. So, if you are an alumnus, please keep your contact information up to date by filling our online alumni update form (<https://forms.brockport.edu/view.php?id=3286246>), as we want to stay connected to all of you and learn about your professional success.

This fall, we will be honoring Dr. James Haynes who is retiring after 42 years of service. Dr. Haynes played an important role in the creation of our department 17 years ago and was its chair for nine years. He also served as chair of the Budget and Resource Committee for our College and more recently as Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. Jim thank you for your service!

Finally, I would like also take this opportunity to thank our alumni, students, and faculty for their generous donations. All contributions facilitate undergraduate and graduate student's success, either directly or through the O'Reilly Scholarship, the Kenneth E. Damann Research Award, the Robinson Family Fund, or the Department of Environmental Science and Ecology Fund. Your support for the department is incredibly valuable and if you have not donated before, consider making a contribution at whatever level is right for you. You can do so at [alumni.brockport.edu/give](http://alumni.brockport.edu/give), and don't forget to specify the fund you wish to donate to.

I hope that you enjoy the newsletter and that it stimulates your interest in our department!

Jacques



## Congratulations Dr. McDaniel!

### Nathan McDaniel

Born May 14, 2019;  
weight 6 lbs, 9 oz;  
length 20 in. He's  
healthy, happy, and  
we couldn't be more  
excited that he's  
here!



## Welcome Dr. Matthew Altenritter!

Matthew grew up in Michigan and spent a significant portion of his early life with a fishing rod in hand. He stayed close to the water while attending Grand Valley State University (< 30 minutes from Lake Michigan) where he earned both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees. As a Master's student, Matthew studied the movement and reproductive ecology of lake sturgeon inhabiting a drowned river-mouth lake on the shores of Lake Michigan. His newly found affinity for all things sturgeon then led him to the University of Maine where

he earned a Ph.D. examining population connectivity in shortnose sturgeon inhabiting coastal rivers of Maine.

Matthew's sturgeon-centric focus was upended when he traveled first to Texas and then Illinois for postdoctoral appointments. In Texas, he examined the effects of hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico on the growth and survival of small marine fish using otolith (or "ear-stone") chemistry. In Illinois, he studied how barriers meant to stop Asian Carp from invading Lake Michigan might

limit native fishes that require habitat connectivity to disperse.

During his travels, Matthew gained a deep appreciation for the important role mentoring played in his journey. He is now looking forward to providing opportunities for students to ask questions, participate in research, and orient themselves towards professions they are passionate



## Welcome Dr. Jacob Straub!



"My professional teaching experience spans more than 10 years and includes a variety of field-based courses in wildlife, forestry, natural resources, ecology and environmental science. I've advised over 100 undergraduate students and 3 MSc students as an Assistant and Associate Professor. My favorite experiences involve taking students to the field and inspiring passion and stewardship for our natural world. I'm also an internationally recognized waterfowl research scientist who works closely with

conservation partners at the state, federal and local levels. My students research relevant and applied aspects of waterfowl and wetland conservation"

## Welcome Mrs. Crystal Nutty!

Crystal started with the Environmental Science and Ecology Department in April of 2019. Before working at Brockport, Crystal worked for Wyoming Correctional Facility in the medical department, and she also worked at the Industry Residential Center in the Education department.

When Crystal is not working her full time job, she also teaches multiple styles of dance. She has been a dancer since she was 4 years old, and it has been a passion of hers for as long as she can remember.

On top of her multiple jobs, Crystal welcomed a baby boy,

Cooper Nutty, on January 18, 2019. He was 6lbs, 2oz, 18.5 inches long.

"He was a welcomed surprise at a month and a day early. He is the happiest little boy and a blessing to have in our lives"



## Inside Dr. McDaniel's Lab...



The Aquatic Invertebrate Ecology lab has been busy this year! The Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Program (CWMP) wrapped up another successful field season this past summer, collecting 96 invertebrate samples from Lake Ontario coastal wetlands. The thousands of invertebrates collected are currently being identified by graduate and undergraduate students in the lab. The goal of this project is to monitor long-term trends in coastal wetland habitats throughout the Great Lakes region.

In graduate student news, Madelynn Edwards just completed her first field season for her thesis project titled, "Use of filamentous bacterial growth on stream macroinvertebrates as an indicator of nutrient enrichment." She has collected and analyzed macroinvertebrates from nutrient-enriched streams and reference streams to determine whether the presence of filamentous bacteria on macroinvertebrates can be used as an indicator of nutrient enrichment in freshwater systems. In addition to her thesis project, Madelynn will be

taking the lead on macroinvertebrate identification for the Great Lakes CWMP.

Recent publications from the lab:

McDaniel, C.H., J.V. McHugh, and D.P. Batzer. 2019. Colonization of drying temporary wetlands by *Coptotomus loticus* (Coleoptera: Dytiscidae): a unique strategy for an aquatic wetland insect. *Wetlands Ecology and Management* (Online first). DOI: 10.1007/s11273-019-09681-4.

McDaniel, C.H. and D.P. Batzer. 2019. Effects of river regulation beyond the channel: multifaceted changes within a group of invertebrate floodplain specialists. *Wetlands* 39: 87-98.

## Inside Dr. Altenritter's Lab...

The Altenritter Lab is just getting off the ground in the Fall 2019! Dr. Altenritter is advising a Master's student, Kylee Wilson, in Environmental Science and Ecology. Kylee spent this past summer immersed in the Coastal Wetland Monitoring project surveying fishes from wetlands around Lake Ontario. While her project has yet to be determined, she has expressed interest in studying habitat connectivity in coastal wetlands based on move-

ments of sport fishes such as yellow perch and northern pike.

Dr. Altenritter hopes to attract students interested in various aspects of fish ecology. He has diverse interests and would be happy to discuss opportunities for student-led research. Students can learn more about his specific interests and past research at his website: [matthewaltenritter.weebly.com](http://matthewaltenritter.weebly.com)



## Inside Dr. Wilcox's Lab...

Despite record high lake levels and persistent flooding along the entire Great Lakes shoreline, the wetlands lab crews under the direction of Dr. Douglas Wilcox had a very busy summer sampling Great Lakes coastal wetlands. This marked SUNY Brockport's ninth season of sampling under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Monitoring Program. Field studies were led by crew chief Greg Lawrence. Graduate student Jess DeToy led the bird and amphibian monitoring team along with undergraduate Jacob Kearney, and they sampled sites from Presque Isle State Park in Erie, Pennsylvania to the source of the St. Lawrence River at Cape Vincent, New York. They had a plethora of focal species this year including great looks at Least Bittern and baby Common Gallinules. Graduate student Chris Mitchell and undergraduate Kevin Killigrew sampled wetland vegetation, graduate student Madelynn Edwards and undergraduate Ben Amberger sampled aquatic invertebrates and water quality, and graduate student Kylee Wilson and undergraduate Ryan Kirkpatrick sampled wetland fish communities. Despite boat motors breaking down, flooded wetlands and boat launches, and hot days in the sun, the crew was successful in monitoring coastal wetlands from Erie, Pennsylvania to Belleville, Ontario on the north shore of Lake Ontario. The crews got to sample rare coastal fen communities near Rochester and a huge patch of wild rice at Hay Bay in Canada. They also caught four species of turtles, including multiple stinkpots and a rare map turtle, along with many unique fish, such as bowfin, northern pike and both longnose and spotted gar.



Graduate student Courtney Scoles and undergraduate Robert Sickler, along with some help from undergraduates Kevin Killigrew and Angela Becker, continued New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) funded post-restoration data collection on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) restoration project at Braddock Bay, near Rochester, New York. Courtney and Robert surveyed wetland plant community response to restoration efforts by doing transects in restored areas and preliminary invasive species walking surveys. Throughout the successful sampling season, they worked around difficult access to constructed channels and potholes in the marsh due to dense vegetation, sediment buildup, record high lake levels, and an excessive numbers of aggressive Mute Swans, an invasive species. Further, Courtney, Robert, and Greg all conducted submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) surveys throughout the bay by using rake tosses from the boat. Lastly, Greg Lawrence surveyed migratory bird use of the constructed barrier beach at Braddock Bay and found a federally endangered Piping Plover in early May, as well as over 1200 shorebirds on the beach during one rainy, foggy morning in late May.



Graduate student Jeremy Brady and undergraduate Chris Pettengill continued post-restoration data collection on wetland plant communities following restoration efforts by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Buck Pond, Long Pond, and Salmon Creek in the Braddock Bay Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Their hard work involved running transects through restoration areas to collect vegetation data, as well as use of a water quality probe to monitor water quality changes in the restored potholes and channels.

## Inside Andie Graham's Lab...



**The *B. sylvaticum* crew visited Bergen Swamp for their training in May.**

Andie Graham and graduate student Tiffany Clay traveled to Baltimore, MD in May to present the results of their slender false-brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*) removal and habitat modeling work at the Society of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting.

Several students worked with Andie during the summer, and many continue to work with her through the fall semester,

on *B. sylvaticum*-related projects in various locations throughout central and western NY. Project goals include detecting and mapping new populations of *B. sylvaticum*, *B. sylvaticum* removal, and soil collection and analysis from infested sites.

## Inside Dr. Chislock's Lab...



Undergraduate student Nicholas Christ sampling zooplankton on Hemlock Lake during Limnology class.

The SUNY-Brockport Limnology Lab has completed its summer field season 1) assessing the prevalence of microplastics in sediments and the water of Lake Ontario and several tributaries (graduate student Tammy Bleier and undergraduate student Cameron Snell); 2) measuring the accumulation of persistent organic contaminants (PAHs) on microplastics in Lake Ontario, tributary, and coastal wetland sites (graduate student Paige Buchholz and undergraduate student Kate Brown); 3) assisting with

post-restoration monitoring of water quality at Braddock Bay (graduate student Dan Beers and undergraduate student Matt Beers); 4) following up on a 2009 study by former SUNY-Brockport limnologist and professor Joe Makarewicz assessing stream bank stabilization and erosion control in the Conesus Lake Watershed (graduate student Dan Beers and undergraduate students Matt Beers, Kate Brown, and Cameron Snell); 5) studying picocyanobacterial blooms and internal nutrient loading in Conesus Lake

(graduate student Tammy Bleier and undergraduate students Kate Brown and Matt Beers); and 6) assessing indirect effects of lake aeration on zooplankton and harmful algal blooms (HABs) in Lake Lacoma. Students in Michael Chislock's Limnology course have visited the Erie Canal, Hemlock, Conesus, and Silver Lakes during the first month of the semester. Future field trips will include Lake Ontario, Braddock Bay, Lake Lacoma, and several Finger Lake and Lake Ontario tributaries.

## Dr. Norment's Research Goup...

Folks were busy this summer—and some still are! Jessica DeToy began her first season of thesis fieldwork on the effects of black swallowwort on salamander populations at Oatka Creek Park, while Michelle Gianvecchio wrapped up her thesis fieldwork on flight calls of Magnolia Warblers and American Redstarts, which she conducted at Braddock Bay Bird Observatory. Dawn Newman has been poking around local

wetlands, searching out frogs and a thesis project involving chytrid fungus. Finally (in terms of theses) Tiffany Clay is working full time for a local consulting firm and finishing her thesis on monarch butterfly use of impoundment dikes at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. This spring and summer Jessica DeToy and Jacob Kearny sampled birds and amphibians for the Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Monitoring Pro-

ject; Jacob also undertook a Summer Undergraduate Research Program project examining butterfly use of "nontraditional" habitats at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. Meanwhile, back at the College, Kati Gierlinger undertook an intensive project on the breeding biology of Eastern Bluebirds using nest boxes placed in 2016-2017 by Andie Graham and her students. Finally, Chris Norment pursued his obsession with Inyo Mountains salamanders, and fit in two more research trips to the Inyo Mountains.



Jess DeToy doing some salamander fieldwork at Oatka Creek Park.

## Inside Dr. Amatangelo's Lab...

This summer, students from Dr. Amatangelo's Plant Ecology lab continued investigating the causes and consequences of non-native plant invasion in western New York. Graduate students Andrew Leonardi and Megan Aubertine conducted research and management on the invasive grass slender false-brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*) in Genesee and Tompkins

County. Graduate student Erica Mackey and undergraduate student Hannah Schuler focused on two recently discovered populations of an invasive vine, mile-a-minute (*Persicaria perfoliata*) in Genesee and Livingston County. They collected data on vine growth and phenology, and undertook control efforts with the assistance of FL-PRISM and NYDEC.



Graduate student Erica Mackey removing mile-a-minute vines in Oakfield, NY.

## Schultz's Research Lab Updates...

This was a busy summer in the Schultz lab with gas, soil, and plant sampling – oh my! Graduate student, Courtney Scoles, assisted by undergraduate students, Rob Sickler and Angela Becker, conducted two campaigns for greenhouse gas sampling of treated and untreated cattail zones across three sites in the Braddock Bay Wildlife Management Area



**Courtney Scoles (left) and Rob Sickler (right) sampling greenhouse gas emissions from Salmon Creek, a native sedge meadow site.**

(WMA). Given the historic high water levels on Lake Ontario, this was quite a feat – and a unique dataset. Angela Becker researched soil nutrient levels and floristic quality along a gradient of native coastal fen species to dominance by cattail species in Cranberry Pond within the Braddock Bay WMA as part of the Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP). Chris Mitchell, graduate student, just secured 30 trail cameras to conduct a study on waterfowl use of restored ponds in coastal wetlands on Lake Ontario. Chris Pettengill, undergraduate student, initiated an independent study of the relationship between plant and macroinvertebrate diversity in riparian systems this semester. Lastly, two new graduate students joined the lab this fall: Sarah Kirkpatrick, graduate of



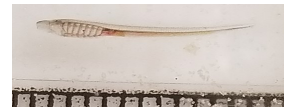
**Angela Becker in the fen at Cranberry Pond in the Braddock Bay Wildlife Management Area on Lake Ontario sampling vegetation.**

SUNY-ESF, and Kevin Killigrew, graduate of SUNY-Brockport. Welcome Sarah and Kevin!

## Inside Dr. Rinchard's Lab

Dr. Rinchard's lab was very active and productive this summer. We collected lake trout samples from Cayuga, Keuka, and Canadice lakes during the NYSDEC Finger Lakes lake trout monitoring; their fatty acid signatures will help us to assess their diet. We successfully reared and spawned adult sea lamprey from Cayuga Lake and are currently rearing their progeny or ammocoetes in the lab. Lillian Denecke, funded by the summer undergraduate research program, conducted a feeding experiment to evaluate the effect of dietary lipid on thiamine deficiency in steelhead trout. In

addition to her project, she also started to analyze lipid content in Chinook salmon raised in net pens located in tributaries of Lake Ontario prior their release. Finally, she spent two weeks in Dr. Randal Snyder's lab at Buffalo State to measure Na+K+ATPase activity in gills of Chinook salmon. This work was partly funded by the Great Lakes Research Consortium. Former MS student Matt Futia and I published two peer-reviewed papers examining the causes and impacts of thiamine deficiency in Lake Ontario salmonines in the Journal of Great Lakes Research. Aaron



**Sea lamprey ammocoete (10 mm)**

Heisley joined the lab as a new graduate student, as well as two undergraduate students, Cameron Snell and Nicholas Christ, who are conducting this fall a series of experiments to determine how plastics accumulate and affect fish. Finally, graduate student Tom Bianchi, who is currently writing his thesis on age-2 alewife reproduction in Lake Ontario, was hired late spring as a Health, Safety, and Environment Representative at Kodak.



**Aaron Heisey, Cameron Snell, Nick Christ, Lillian Denecke and Tom Bianchi**

# ESE Faculty Organize International Conference held at Brockport!

The College at Brockport, State University of New York, hosted the 62nd annual scientific meeting of the International Association for Great Lakes Research (IAGLR) from June 10-14, 2019.

With strong support from Dr. Jose Maliekal, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, six members of Brockport's Department of Environmental Science and Ecology made the local arrangements and created the program for this year's IAGLR conference: Dr. Joseph Makarewicz (Program Chair and Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus), Dr. James Haynes (Site Chair and Professor), Dr. Jacques Rinchar (Associate Professor), Dr. Rachel Schultz (Associate Professor), Dr. Michael Chislock (Assistant Professor) and Dr. Courtney McDaniel (Assistant Professor). Before and during the conference, the planning committee was assisted by 22 student volunteers from Brockport, RIT, and The University of Vermont.

The International Association for Great Lakes Research is a scientific organization made up of researchers and natural resource managers studying the Laurentian Great Lakes, other large lakes of the world, and their watersheds, as well as those who administer such research. With its mission to promote all aspects of large lakes research and communicate research findings, IAGLR is uniquely positioned to foster the connection between science and policy, a connection vital for effective management and protection of the world's large lakes.

More than 700 people attended the conference that featured 600 papers and posters presented during 59 sessions across 11 topic areas including Chemical Contaminants and Emerging Issues; Fisheries and Fishery Management; Great Lakes Limnology and Health; Harmful Algal Blooms and Nutrients; Trophic Food Webs: Dynamics, Function and Technology; Watersheds, Groundwater, Tributaries and Coastal Issues; Wetlands and Reefs; and a 1.5-d session for communication between the six commissioners of the International Joint Commission (the binational Canadian and U.S. treaty organization created in 1909 to address transboundary concerns) and Great Lakes stakeholders (scientists, managers, policy-makers and the public).

The Department of Environmental Science and Ecology at Brockport has a nearly 50-year history of environmental and ecological research on the Great Lakes and their connecting channels as well as many rivers, lakes and wetlands across New York State and beyond. Products of ESE faculty members' and their students' research during the past five decades include \$32 million of external funding from federal, state and non-governmental agencies, 337 peer-reviewed publications, 272 technical reports and 142 Master's theses.

The disciplinary breadth of our seven-member Environmental Science & Ecology department makes it the only one of ten institutions in the Great Lakes basin-wide Coastal Wetland Monitoring Program capable of conducting studies on all facets of the monitoring program: vegetation, fish, invertebrates, birds, amphibians, and water chemistry.



## Blake Snyder (MS 2012)

I completed my M.S. in environmental science under the tutelage of Dr. Jacques Rin-  
chard in 2012. My research at Brockport dealt with replacing lipid sources in lake trout diets and determining how that affected fatty acid profiles and various growth parameters.

Upon graduating, I moved to Athens, GA to work as a research fellow with the Environmental Protection Agency. I worked alongside ecologists and microbiologists to determine sources of fecal contamination in urban streams using fecal indicator bacteria and microbial source tracking (MST) markers. This allows us to determine not only fecal

contamination hotspots within a watershed but also the specific source of contamination (i.e. human, avian, dog, etc.) so watershed managers can more efficiently take remedial action and assess the risk it poses to public health.

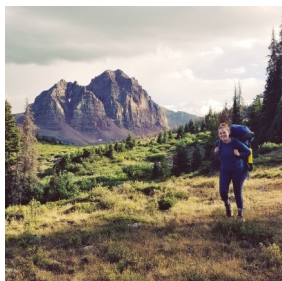
After the completion of my fellowship with the EPA, I was hired as a microbiologist with the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Services in Athens, GA. As a microbiologist, I'm responsible for receiving raw beef, pork, poultry, and ready to eat food samples and screening them for pathogens such as Salmonella, E. coli, Listeria, and Campylobacter. After they



are determined to be negative for these pathogens, they are distributed to grocers for widespread sale and consumption.

The hands-on experience I received through classes and research opportunities while attending Brockport gave me a skillset that readied me for the future and one that I continue to build upon.

## Leanna Littler (BS 2012)



I am currently an Environmental Scientist III for the State of Utah, in the Division of Water Quality. I work in the surface water section, where I am a NPDES permit writer for wastewater discharges. This position involves permit writing, inspections, and compliance and enforcement. I am also the states 401 water quality certification coordinator, where I review and certify

whether federal permits will meet the states water quality standards.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time and Brockport and appreciated the small classroom sizes and the the availability of the professors. Even after I graduated, my professors supported me by looking over my resume and cover letters, and offering suggestions for improvement.

I didn't realize how fortunate I was to have been offered so many different classes that had a lab portion, giving hands-on experience. I was able to leverage that experience when looking for jobs. Some of my colleagues were not as fortunate to have as many lab opportunities. I still stay in touch with people in my graduating class and have been able to network.





## Kate Bailey Barrett (MS 2015)



My name is Kate and I graduated from SUNY Brockport in August 2015 with my Masters in Environmental Science & Biology. With Dr. Haynes as my advisor, I had the opportunity to SCUBA dive to collect my thesis samples from the Olcott Reef in Lake Ontario. Seeing firsthand the effects of invasive species on aquatic communities made me realize my passion for the benthos, the bottom component of aquatic ecosystems that isn't always seen from the surface, but plays a vital role in food web dynamics. I

also developed a soft spot for wetlands thanks to Dr. Wilcox and the three summers of field work on the "Bug Crew" for the coastal wetlands monitoring project. My time at Brockport taught me the importance of resilience, determination, hard work, and patience, values that I carry with me as I enter my 4th year as a PhD candidate in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Notre Dame. My dissertation carries on my love for the benthos, but in a saline and arid setting: The Great Salt Lake, Utah, which is the fourth largest hypersaline lake in the world and an important stopover habitat for millions of migratory birds. Within the Great Salt Lake, I study the microbialites, coral reef-like structures that host incredible microbial diversity. I conduct seasonal field sampling, and apply DNA se-

quencing approaches and stable isotopes analysis to understand how microbialite-associated primary producers respond to changes in abiotic factors and how this component is linked to the rest of the food web. In addition to my dissertation, I have enjoyed four summers on the pristine Flathead Indian Reservation in Montana at the University of Notre Dame Environmental Research Center. While in Montana, I've mentored many undergraduates who have conducted independent ecological research projects, and I've been fortunate to spend my days on the National Bison Range and tribal lands helping students collect data and design their studies. From Brockport, to now, I've realized my passion not only for the benthos, but also in mentoring undergraduates in the lab and field.

## Kristen Brewster (BS 2015)

After graduating in spring 2015 with my BS, I bounced around for a few years in a wide variety of positions. I was a wetland tech for the Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Monitoring Project and Dr. Wilcox, as well as the following summer for the New York Natural Heritage Program. In between those positions I was a research intern for the Department of Energy at Brookhaven Laboratory in Long Island. From there I moved on to serve with AmeriCorps in the Maryland Conservation Corps near Baltimore while also working as a park ranger. Through AmeriCorps I was reminded of a particular field trip for ENV 202 with Andie, my first semester after I transferred to Brockport during my sophomore

year. We had gone to Wild Wings at Mendon Ponds and met their non-releasable wildlife ambassadors. It one of my favorite lab field trips of the semester and reminded me of some of my favorite elementary school memories of groups bringing raptors to my school and giving programs. While in Maryland one of my roles was a caretaker and educator with our non-releasable raptors and reptiles. Last fall I moved back north for a position at the Center for Wildlife near York, ME. At the Center for Wildlife I am an education and outreach fellow, and continue to work with non-releasable raptor, reptile, and mammal ambassadors. I also have the opportunity to work on some of the behind the



scenes duties needed to make a non profit run and grow. I absolutely love the position I am in and having the opportunity to help the public connect to our ambassadors as well as teaching them about ways that they can keep wildlife safe.

## Ken Johnston (BS 2015)

I graduated and was part of the Class of 2015 with a combined BS in Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecology with minors in Chemistry and Business. My time at Brockport went quickly but it was a time in my life that I cherish. My experiences helped shape me and my career. The department of ENV is a close-knit group which helped me get involved with professors, projects, and friends.

Since graduating at Brockport in December of 2015 I have been working for Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute at the Darrin Fresh Water Institute on Lake George on an environmental monitoring project called the Jefferson Project. This project is a partnership

between Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, IBM Research, and The FUND for Lake George. The project is using an advanced technological approach to environmental monitoring and research. With the combination of experimentation, high-frequency data collection and modeling the goal is to understand the impact of human activity on freshwater and how to mitigate those effects.

My responsibilities are to maintain, calibrate and build our smart sensor network. I also perform QA/QC procedures for all data points from all data platforms including weather stations, tributary stations, and vertical profilers. I

am also involved with projects such as road salt application, HABs, nutrient budgets, and climate change. My future plans are to continue to work on publications and obtain a graduate degree in the coming years.



## John Bateman (BS,MS 2014)

I recently started my second year as an instructor of environmental conservation for the Department of Conservation and Horticulture at Finger Lakes Community College. My teaching duties include all sections of environmental science (both lecture and lab), and I also co-teach "Wildlife Day" during our week-long conservation field camp. Outside of the classroom, I am the faculty adviser for The Wildlife Society club chapter, the Bowling

Club, and a recently formed Herpetology Club. I also serve as a liaison between FLCC's conservation department and the Department of Environmental Science and Ecology at Brockport. I really enjoy this part of my job, as I get to bring students out to Brockport to

meet with faculty and students, to discuss continuing their education after graduation—and a few of my students are now enrolled there! Lastly, I help coordinate a public effort to aid salamanders and other amphibians in their spring migrations at FLCC's Muller Field Station. This past spring, more than 200 volunteers came out on warm, rainy nights and moved close to 5,000 amphibians off the road and out of harm's way.



# Visit us online!

The Environmental Science & Ecology department has launched a few new online portals for everyone to visit! Check out the links below!

## Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/BrockportENV/>

## SUNY Brockport Webpage

[https://www.brockport.edu/academics/environmental\\_science/](https://www.brockport.edu/academics/environmental_science/)

## Instagram

[suny\\_brockport\\_env\\_sci](https://www.instagram.com/suny_brockport_env_sci)

## Department Webpage

<https://sunybrockportenv.weebly.com/>



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