

Environmental Studies News

Greetings!

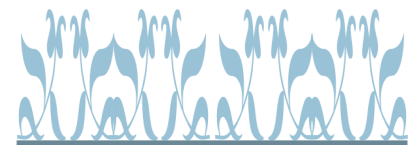


Students meet with faculty during a fall group advising session.

The strengths of any Environmental Studies student are adaptability and resilience, and I would add a sense of community. Our department has remained strong during the past year and has much to look forward to in the coming months and years. As part of being the change you want to see in the world, Dr. Ford, Dr. Cleary, and Dr. Rogers wanted a better textbook to introduce students to the many aspects of environmental studies and their edited book was recently published. Dr. Cleary and Dr. Rogers created their own lab space on campus that has welcomed student interns during the summer and fall semesters. We were able to build a beetle hatchery by the WISER Center, the beetles acting as a biocontrol of purple loosestrife, an invasive species. During the spring and fall semesters we worked with students looking at innovative camera trapping of small mammals as the beginning of a larger research study. Dr. Ford was chosen as part of the Planetary Scholars & Artists in Residence in Giessen, Germany, and she was able to spend the fall semester in Europe connecting with other scholars and continue working on a book related to the Black Ecological Wisdom.

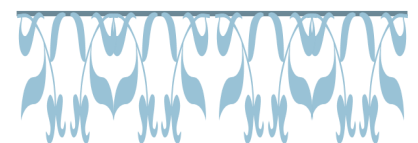
Based on their active research programs and diverse connections throughout the environmental field as you'll read in the newsletter, our faculty have been supporting student interests with research and internships. In partnership with the other local colleges, students will participate in a comprehensive food waste audit in Spring 2023. The goal is to understand how best to establish composting and divert the waste from landfills. We have students interning with our drama department to add some environmental expertise to an upcoming production on climate change, as well as helping a local municipality become a climate smart community. The variety of options with an environmental studies degree has never been fuller, or that interdisciplinary perspective more necessary. We're grateful to have such a wonderful community of students, faculty, staff, and alumni supporting the environment.
#PotsdamProud

Jess Rogers, Ph.D., Interim Department Chair



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Meet the Faculty

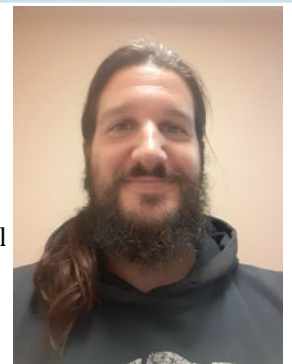


Dr. Kate Cleary is a conservation biologist with experience working in diverse ecosystems in the Rocky Mountain west, Latin America, and most recently, the Adirondacks. She holds a PhD in Ecology and Conservation Genetics from the University of Idaho, and an MSc in Conservation Biology from Colorado State University. In between earning these degrees, Cleary served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Guatemala from 2007-2010, and conducted research as a Fulbright Student Scholar in Costa Rica in 2013. Her current research interests are relevant in both the tropics and the North Country: she is interested in conservation on private lands, wildlife habitat connectivity, and sustainable and biodiversity-friendly agricultural systems. Cleary moved to the North Country five years ago and is very happy to have landed at SUNY Potsdam— she values the campus’s small size, commitment to diversity, and appreciation for interdisciplinary teaching and research.

Dr. Claudia J. Ford teaches Environmental Studies, Environmental Justice & Literature, Environmental and Business Ethics, and Global Business Economics. She is currently serving as the Interim Chief Diversity Officer at SUNY Potsdam. Dr. Ford has had a career in women’s health and international development spanning three decades and all continents. Her research interests are in traditional ecological knowledge, agro ecology, historical ethnobotany, medicinal plants, and reproductive health justice. Dr. Ford is also a midwife, writer, and visual artist, and has shared the joys and adventures of her global travel with her four children.



After growing up in central New York (like all places he has lived, traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy— specifically, the Oneida Nation), **Dr. Matthew LaVine** earned a BA in Philosophy and Mathematics, as well as an MA in Mathematics, from SUNY Potsdam before earning an MA and PhD in Philosophy from the University at Buffalo. His interest in the environment was solidified by his experiences working on a small organic farm just outside of Utica, NY as a teenager. Since becoming a member of the Environmental Studies department, Matt has taught upper-division courses on Environmental Ethics and Environmental Justice, as well as a new critical thinking seminar on residential segregation. His approach to the environment is largely driven by the idea that we cannot hope to have a significant impact on the rampant environmental degradation all around us without our world moving in a more just direction and vice versa!



Environmental Studies Advisory Committee

- ◆ Bridget Amulike
Visiting Assistant Professor,
Biology
- ◆ Kamal Humagain
Assistant Professor, Geology
- ◆ Donald McNutt
Associate Professor, English
& Communication
- ◆ Heather Sullivan-Catlin
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Criminal Justice
- ◆ Adam Wheeler
Coordinator, Wilderness
Education



Dr. Jessica Rogers, a North Country native, has returned after receiving her undergraduate degree at Princeton University and her masters and PhD at Columbia University. She is currently an Assistant Professor in Environmental Studies at SUNY Potsdam. Her research interests look at landscape conservation: more traditionally through deforestation changes in protected areas using GIS (Geographic Information Systems), as well as examining practical methods of conservation in the North Country. More information about Dr. Rogers’ research and teaching can be found at drjessicarogers.weebly.com.

Dr. Rogers Presents at Northeastern Political Association Conference

Dr. Jessica Rogers and Politics Department Instructor Michael Popovic recently presented their paper Climate Change and Human Migration at the Northeastern Political Science (NPSA) Association's 53rd Annual Conference.



NPSA is one of the leading regional professional organizations in the United States for the study of politics. Every year, at its Annual Conference, the NPSA brings together hundreds of political scientists from all fields of study and from all parts of the United States and the world for the purpose of enhancing and expanding their knowledge of politics. It also organizes a book exhibit and offers awards for the best papers presented at the conference. Our website, besides its focus on the upcoming conference, offers also useful information on research and job opportunities, a Newsletter, a gallery of photos of past conferences, and more. You are invited to visit all our links and to consider participating in our future conferences as a paper presenter, panel organizer, panel chair or discussant, or just by simply attending. NPSA publishes the distinguished, peer-reviewed journal [Polity](#).

Fiber Receives Potsdam PRIDE Award

Zoey Fiber '22 was recognized by SUNY Potsdam's Emerging Leaders with a Potsdam PRIDE award for Inspiring Inclusion. The award is given to a person or group who strives to create a positive, welcoming environment for all. They make everyone feel included and part of the diverse SUNY Potsdam community. The goal of the PRIDE Awards is to recognize how members of the Potsdam community support one another; advocate for positive change; and provide inspiration and creativity to help us be our best.

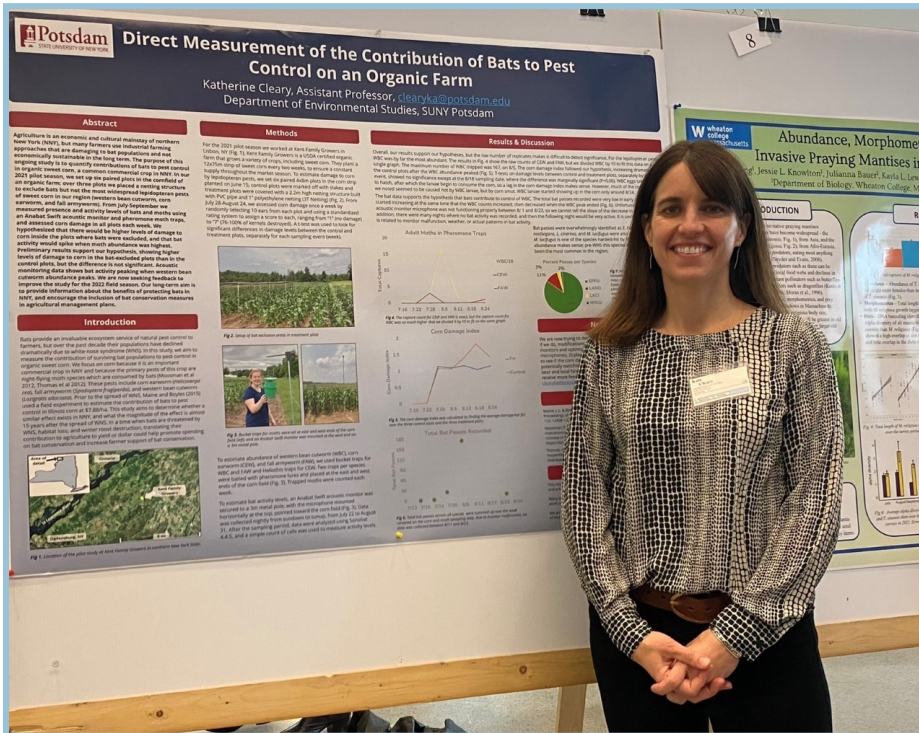
Zoey is a Student Initiated Interdisciplinary Major (SIIM) with minors in Wilderness Education and Therapeutic Recreation. She was the recipient of the Environmental Studies Department inaugural Interdisciplinary Scholar Award, which recognizes a senior student with a GPA of 3.5 who has taken a minimum of five courses in the Environmental Studies Department and displays the greatest understanding of and aptitude for interdisciplinarity regardless of their major.



Zoey Fiber is pictured with Dr. Claudia Ford at the Environmental Studies Department's annual award ceremony.

Dr. Cleary & Dr. Johnson Present at Northeast Natural History Conference

Dr. Kate Cleary and Dr. Glenn Johnson of the Biology Department attended the Northeast Natural History Conference at the new Albany Capital Center. This conference is the Northeast's largest regional forum for researchers, natural resource managers, students, and naturalists to present current information on the varied aspects of applied field biology (freshwater, marine, and terrestrial) and natural history for the Northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. Dr. Cleary presented a poster on her research on the contribution of bats to pest control in agriculture. Last summer environmental studies major and sustainability minor Kaitlyn Bernhardt '24 assisted Dr. Cleary with the research. Dr. Johnson presented a poster on his work with Blanding's turtle habitat restoration. He was assisted by students Dana Holmlund '22 and Grace Conway '24 with his work last summer.



Students Participate in Worldwide Climate Justice Teach-In



Students from Dr. Sullivan-Catlin's Sustainable Communities class joined more than 1000 universities, colleges, K-12 schools, and greater communities across the globe in a one-day Worldwide Teach-in on Climate and Justice. The Worldwide Teach-In is a project of the [Graduate Programs in Sustainability](#) at Bard College in New York, in conjunction with partners worldwide and the [Open Society University Network](#). Participating students (pictured above from left to right) Riley Notarthomas '23, Courtney Loffler '22, Kaitlyn Bernhardt '23, Zoey Fiber '23, Preston Santimaw '23, and Trent Weston '23 spoke to students, faculty, and staff about Sustainable Development Goals. The students gave a brief history and an in-depth analysis of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, as well as how they apply to the local community, and the world as a whole.



Austrian Author Matthias Klestil Speaks to Environmental Studies Class

Matthias Klestil, a Postdoc Assistant in American Studies at the University of Klagenfurt, Austria, recently guest lectured in Dr. Ford's class. His postdoctoral research project focuses on "Versionality and Coincidence in Contemporary North American Fiction and Film." Klestil wrote his PhD on 19th-century African American literature and was a Bavarian Fellow at the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. His research interests include ecocriticism, narrative theory, 19th-century U.S. literature and culture, and ethnic American literatures. Klestil's monograph *Environmental Knowledge, Race, and African American Literature* is forthcoming with Palgrave Macmillan (2023). In November, Dr. Ford traveled to the University in Klagenfurt Austria to give a reciprocal lecture in his classes on Climate Change and Climate Justice.



First Ever Environmental Studies Lab Created through Grant



Environmental Studies major Vincenzo Bonaiuto collaborates with Dr. Glenn Johnson and Visiting Assistant Professor Bridget Amulike, both of the Biology Department, to plan the next steps of the bucket cam pilot project.

Dr. Kate Cleary was recently awarded a ProDIG grant to create an Environmental Studies laboratory, the first of its kind at SUNY Potsdam. The \$1,972 grant covered the costs of equipment including a lab freezer and refrigerator, a desktop computer, and associated software packages. The lab was set up in time to be utilized for the summer 2022 field season. Currently, the lab is actively in use for a wide range of projects including:

- Dr. Cleary, Dr. Rogers, Dr. Johnson, and Bridget Amulike's project on diversity gradients in mammals across a rural-urban interface. Students Vinny Bonaiuto '23 and Kelly Bloom '25 will assist this fall.
- Dr. Rogers' project on the distribution and control of purple loosestrife in Northern New York.
- Environmental Studies major Mary Keating's '24 research project on biodiversity differences between no mow and mow zones on campus.
- Environmental Studies major Yari Moran's '24 research project continuing wildlife monitoring with the Adirondack Inventory and Monitoring Network.

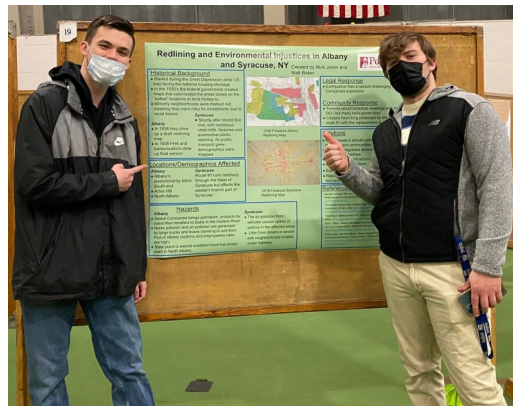
Dr. Cleary Receives Walker Research Fellowship Grant

Dr. Kate Cleary was recently selected as a recipient of the T. Urling and Mabel Walker Research Fellowship Program for her research “Bats in the North Country: Evaluating Population Status and Contributions to Agriculture.” The \$5,000 grant, administered by the SUNY Potsdam's Office of the Provost and College Advancement, is given to encourage faculty from the region's 11 institutions of higher education to undertake research on critical issues confronting North Country communities, with the objective of making recommendations for their solutions. The grant funded Dr. Cleary's summer research monitoring bat populations across the North Country and kicked off field research to investigate the impact of bat pest control on local corn farmers. Three SUNY Potsdam interns, Kaitlyn Bernhardt '23, Zoey Fiber '22, and Gaby Toriseva '24, worked on the project assisting her.



Earth Week Celebrated in the North Country

SUNY Potsdam and the surrounding community celebrated Earth Week from April 18-23, 2022. The Environmental Club organized and hosted an array of fun and educational events for students, faculty, and staff. Activities included art in the WISER green house, an upcycling workshop and clothing swap, a hike and trail clean up, a screening of the documentary *Kiss the Ground*, an Adirondack community panel session, and a thrifted fashion show. The club also welcomed guest speaker County Planner John F. Tenbusch who presented North Country Invasives and Mitigation. The week culminated on Earth Day with the Sustainability Day and Green Living Fair held at St. Lawrence University. Numerous SUNY Potsdam students attended the Fair, partaking in workshops, demonstrations, and presenting their own research at a poster session. Keynote speaker Robin Wall Kimmerer, who is an author, scientist, decorated professor, and enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation posed with students on the right.



Students model their upcycled outfits at the Thrifted Fashion Show.



Robin Wall Kimmerer

Dr. Ford Awarded Fellowship in Planetary Thinking



Professor of Environmental Studies Dr. Claudia J. Ford has been awarded an innovative fellowship through the **Panel on Planetary Thinking** at Justus-Liebig-Universität in Giessen, Germany (pictured above).

The four-year program aims to stimulate transdisciplinary dialogues between the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and the arts. Ford was chosen from among hundreds of applicants from around the world to take part in the unique program. She is set to travel to Germany to complete her fellowship this summer.

Fellows of the Planetary Scholars and Artists in Residence Program receive the unique opportunity to engage in transdisciplinary dialogues while exploring how academia and the arts grapple with the manifold relations between societies and the planet.

Dr. Ford's fellowship project is titled "What Earth is Made of: Planetary Materials, Indigenous Knowledge and the Gaia Hypothesis."

"Humans, animate and inanimate beings—we all have in common the DNA of a star. Conceiving of the planet as Gaia, a 'self-regulating complex system' or super-organism, maps onto indigenous ecological thinking about human/planetary interactions and the cosmology that describes kin centric ecological relationships between humans and the planet," Ford said.

"Enlarging our philosophical perspective of the Gaia hypothesis allows us to grapple with this idea that we are all of one origin, made of the same planetary substances, yet exist as a species with supremely different modes of being, worldviews, and paradigms about how to be in sustainable relationship with this unitary planet and our common origins."

Ford plans to focus on a central question of how to wed the unitary nature of planetary materials and origins with the diverse nature of cultural understandings of those materials and origins.

"Art making and storytelling honor the different paradigms of research, knowledge creation, and knowledge sharing that inform this project," she said. "The arts pay tribute to the methodologies underlying the indigenous knowledge of all peoples, making complex scientific and philosophical topics visible to make them more accessible."

New York Invasive Species Research Institute Spotlights Dr. Rogers

Dr. Jessica Rogers' recent work was featured as the Research Spotlight by the [New York Invasive Species Research Institute](#). Established in 2008 and housed in the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University with support from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, the New York Invasive Species Research Institute is committed to improving the scientific basis of invasive species management. They serve the scientific research community, natural resource and land managers, and state offices and sponsored organizations through promoting research, creating networks, and providing support. Read the full interview below.

Dr. Jessica Rogers focuses her research on documenting the infestation of purple loosestrife in the North Country. NYISRI is pleased to feature her work in this month's researcher spotlight:

What kinds of research questions related to invasive species are you currently asking?

My research focuses on documenting the infestation of purple loosestrife in the North Country. I wanted to understand how widely it was spreading, and then, ultimately, how to control it. I want to understand how prevalent the biological control beetles were in our area. I have also been working with the department of transportation to understand how mowing might influence the spread along highways.



What are the basic methods you are using to answer your research questions?

I work with student researchers in the summer to map all the infestations along about 150 miles of state highways. We use an app on our phones that records basic information and size of all infestations. To raise beetles we've built artificial wetlands at SUNY Potsdam where we've propagated more than 14,000 *Galerucella* beetles to ask as a control and released them throughout the county.

Do you have a personal story or path that led to your interest in this research?

I grew up in Potsdam, NY and when I returned after graduate school, the wetlands in the North Country along the major highways had changed. They were no longer crowded with only native vegetation, but seemed very overrun with single species – particularly purple loosestrife. This led me to want to understand the problem and the NYS DEC website only had a few recorded incidences, so I began a project to make the story clearer.

How does your research relate to a wider field of invasive species prevention/management?

As part of the first grant I got from the St. Lawrence River Research and Education Fund from the New York Power Authority, they asked me to identify any other invasive plants surrounding purple loosestrife. This led to the beginning of understanding how widespread different invasions are in the same ecosystem. In addition, being one of the people actually growing a biological control has given me some insight into how that same process might work to control more invasive plants in our area.



What's the most important thing about your research for stakeholders, managers, or policy makers to know?

Purple loosestrife, along with many invasive species, is here to stay. However, that doesn't mean giving up – it means finding ways to bring it under control in our ecosystem. The wetland ecosystem evolves naturally, and adding many invasive plants disrupts that change, but it doesn't have to end the ecosystem. Finding ways to control, mitigate, and where necessary eliminate species, is crucial. There's no one-size-fits-all management style for invasive species, but many species can be controlled and brought into balance with our native systems.



What do you hope the long-term impact of your work will be?

I hope to work myself out of a job – that my expertise will no longer be necessary because purple loosestrife will be a managed part of the ecosystem and we can appreciate its beauty. However, realistically, I hope my work can be a catalyst for more management of invasive plants in the under-studied region of Northern New York.

Is there anything else you'd like to add or tell us about your work?

Much of this work has been done with student interns, and creating specific guidebooks for them has been extremely rewarding. Instead of asking them to learn to identify all the possible grasses and weeds in the world, we've created a curated guide to our region so they're aware of all the native and invasive plants that have been found in our region.

[Read Dr. Rogers' recent paper on controlling purple loosestrife.](#)

Environmental Studies Faculty Co-Author Interdisciplinary Textbook



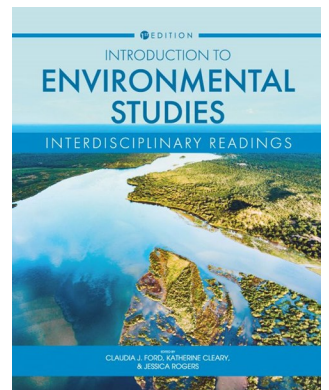
Three SUNY Potsdam **Department of Environmental Studies** faculty members have published a new textbook to introduce college students to their growing field.

Dr. Claudia J. Ford, Dr. Katherine Cleary and Dr. Jessica Rogers have co-authored "**Introduction to Environmental Studies: Interdisciplinary Reading**," published by Cognella. The book is available as either an ebook or as a paperback edition.

The textbook provides students with a carefully selected collection of articles that help them navigate the most important topics in environmental studies, focusing on different connections between humans and the environment. The anthology emphasizes voices outside the white, male canon, to provide students with diverse perspectives and a broader understanding of contemporary issues within the discipline.

Opening chapters introduce environmental studies, sustainability, and the connection between humans and the resources we extract from the environment. Subsequent chapters examine the history of environmentalism in North America, how our relationship to the environment has evolved over time, a concise survey of key environmental processes, and issues related to climate change and our climate crisis.

The book also explores the environmental impact of our food production processes on different countries and groups of people; issues related to environmental justice; the ways in which human population affects the environmental sustainability of our future, and sustainable energy issues. The anthology's final chapters address environmental legislation and policies; ethical issues around consumption and collective responsibility; and the future of our environment.



Program Spotlight: Live Now

In fall, 27 students spent the day whitewater rafting along a 15-mile stretch of the Indian and Hudson Rivers - a beautiful patch of wilderness in the heart of the Adirondacks. As part of the new Live Now program at SUNY Potsdam, the trip was one of many being offered, bringing together diverse groups of students to explore Northern New York and the Adirondack Mountains. A collaborative effort between the Center for Diversity, the Wilderness Education Program, Venture Outdoors, and sponsored by the Adirondack Diversity Initiative, one of the goals of the program is to introduce BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) students to outdoor recreation, wilderness education, and career paths focused on the environment.



SUNY Potsdam Dedicates First Campus Wind Turbine

In a fitting celebration of National Sustainability Day, SUNY Potsdam officially dedicated the campus's first wind turbine today in a collegial celebration, along with local leaders and partners from Clarkson University.

SUNY Potsdam's new 3.5 kilowatt turbine is locally produced by Ducted Wind Turbines, founded by Clarkson faculty member Dr. Kenneth Visser. Leaders from both campuses were on hand to help flip the switch to test out the blades in the breeze, following a ceremony at the turbine site, located on Outer Main Street.

"The partnership here between SUNY Potsdam and Clarkson is demonstrated very physically right behind me today," said Clarkson University President Dr. Anthony Collins, looking up at the new turbine. "The idea that they would look across the river and see the technology that's being developed right here in Potsdam is wonderful—and this is world-challenging technology."

SUNY Potsdam's new turbine is an important milestone in the College's progress toward SUNY's ambitious renewable energy goals, and will also be used as an educational resource for the environmental studies program and other courses across the curriculum.



"For those who are curious, this turbine produces 3.5 kilowatts indefinitely, but it can also produce up to 12 kilowatts in really windy conditions, so that's exciting... Putting this turbine here today makes SUNY part of our research field testing team. We are constantly reviewing the data, and we reserve the right to make free upgrades. So, it's really great to get another field unit out there," said Visser, who is both the co-founder of Ducted Wind Turbines and an associate professor of mechanical and aeronautical engineering at Clarkson. "To SUNY Potsdam, thank you so much for being an early adopter."

As designed by Visser, the Ducted Wind turbines can produce more than twice the energy of a conventional open bladed wind turbine of the same rotor diameter. The Company focused on providing the lowest cost per kilowatt-hour in the small turbine market in an effort to improve the quality of life on our planet.

Nathan Carr '18, SUNY Potsdam's energy manager and sustainability coordinator, worked to make the project possible by leveraging New York State's investment in making campus facilities more energy efficient, in order to start producing clean power as well.

The funding for the project came from efficiency incentives provided through a National Grid rebate program, allowing the campus to invest in local green energy.



Dr. John Graham shakes hands with Nathan Carr '18.

“For me, this is all about helping and giving back to our **environmental studies program**, which I once was a student in myself. I believe the future is going to see a large increase in renewable energy, and I hope this will give our students interest and knowledge for when they enter the workforce or go on to further education,” Carr said.

Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies Dr. Katherine Cleary pointed to statistics showing that even during the worst of the pandemic, the only energy sector that actually added jobs was wind electricity generation, and pointed out that the solar and wind industries already employ more people than electric generation from coal, gas and oil combined. She added that the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics lists wind turbine technicians and solar photovoltaic installation as among the top five fastest growing occupations for the next decade.

“Having our own wind turbine on campus benefits our environmental studies program in many ways. It will provide us with hands-on learning opportunities to take ‘field trips’ to learn how the turbine works, up close and personal. We will use the data generated through the Ducted Wind dashboard for class projects,” Cleary said. “These activities will



From left, Clarkson President Tony Collins, Grace Romer’24, Dr. Kenneth Visser, and Dr. John Graham.

“This wind turbine produced locally at Ducted Wind Turbines, which is committed to implementing affordable small wind energy for all, will act as an educational, living laboratory where SUNY Potsdam classes can come observe and perform assessments on the wind turbine’s functionality and impact. Not only will this wind turbine serve higher-education endeavors, but it will serve as a community symbol, representing the growth and gravity of renewable energy for a sustainable now,” Romer said.

“Although I am only a second-year student at SUNY Potsdam, I have witnessed the power in my campus community and the ability for change to be made, trailblazed by the powerful, strong voices and actions of students and faculty. Today, we are collectively witnessing the commencement of on-site renewable energy on our campus and a substantial step into the future of domestic renewable energy that will take part in revitalizing our environment and improving the quality of life for all species,”

- Grace Romer '24

ultimately help us better prepare our students for careers in the field of renewable energy, which is a growth sector in the U.S.”

SUNY Potsdam Environmental Club President Grace Romer '24 was joined at the event by her excited classmates and friends—all thrilled to see the turbine spin for the first time. Romer is majoring in environmental studies and political science, and minoring in sustainability and wilderness education, inspired by her personal drive to protect the Earth and combat climate change.

SUNY Potsdam is nationally ranked in the 2022 Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges, and is a member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. Its environmental studies program is truly interdisciplinary, incorporating courses from 14 different departments to prepare environmental leaders for the future.

Where Are They Now?

We Want to Hear From You!

Do you have exciting news to share? The Environmental Studies Department wants to celebrate all of your professional and personal achievements! We would love to hear about your most memorable moments at SUNY Potsdam and possibly feature your story in an upcoming edition of the department newsletter. Please share any updates with the department by emailing Sarah Carr, department administrative assistant, at carrsl@potsdam.edu.

Dana Holmlund '21, a double major in a Creative Writing and Environmental Studies, recently completed an exciting internship with [Adirondack Explorer magazine](#). The nonprofit magazine covers the Adirondack Park's environment, recreation, and communities.



Randy Monica, Jr. '19 of Malone, NY, is applying the knowledge gained from completing an Environmental Studies major and Environmental Science and Politics double minor by working for the New York State Government. He is a Utility Analyst for the Department of Public Service in Albany, which regulates the energy industry in New York State. He participates in meetings and working groups that help pursue the state's renewable energy goals. Randy relishes in the opportunity to help New York achieve its carbon reduction goals, representing New York State consumers, and applying his political knowledge to navigate the policies and procedures of state and federal energy regulators.



Where Are They Now?

Sam Ernst '21 is currently employed by the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's Environmental Division as a Pesticide Technician for the Land Resources Department. The Environmental Studies major and Wilderness Education minor, served as an intern for Dr. Jessica Rogers in the summer of 2021, running the beetle hatchery. Sam recently returned to campus to collect one thousand beetles from the hatchery to deploy on the Akwesasne Mohawk Nation to help control infestations of invasive purple loosestrife. He will continue monitoring sites with Dr. Rogers in the future.



While at SUNY Potsdam, **Alice Menis '21** double majored in Creative Writing and Environmental Studies, minored in Wilderness Education, and was a member of the Women's Cross Country and Track Teams. Last summer, she was a steward at Paul Smith's Visitor Information Center (VIC) where she blogged for the [Adirondack Almanac](#), patrolled the trails, educated the public, and led the VIC's children's environmental education program - Junior Heron's Club.

Alice is now an Environmental Education Assistant in the Bureau of Environmental Education at the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation in Albany, NY. She works on the administrative team for the DEC Summer Camps Program and leads and coordinates environmental education afterschool programs in Capital District Schools.

Wondering how you can help Environmental Studies at SUNY Potsdam?

The department is proud to announce the creation of the Environmental Studies Endowed Fund which supports student-faculty research, field experiences, travel to conferences, supplies and more. And because it's endowed, it will support the program for years to come!

Make your gift today by visiting www.potsdam.edu/give (select "other" for the designation and, when prompted, enter "Environmental Studies Endowed Fund"). Thank you! We are grateful to our generous alumni and friends who make these transformational experiences possible for our students.

Other Ways to Give:

- **Send a check!** Mail your check, made out to "Potsdam College Foundation," to the College Advancement Office with the giving form provided below.
- **Make a gift of appreciated stock,** held long-term, and save on capital gains tax. Call us for help making your gift.

Contact the College Advancement Office for assistance as you make your gift:

(315) 267-3253

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Make your gift to support Environmental Studies today!



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(315) 267-3253

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- I am including my check, made payable to "Potsdam College Foundation."
- I have questions. Please call me.
- I have included SUNY Potsdam in my estate plan.

Science, Satterlee, and Selfies

Grace Conway, a sophomore Environmental Studies major, joined Dr. Jessica Rogers flying a drone to examine recent weather damage to the iconic Satterlee clock tower. Grace took Introduction to Geographic Information Systems and was able to collect data first-hand. She flew the drone and even took a selfie with the equipment!



Thank You to Our Donors

We are so grateful to the alumni, faculty and friends who make gifts to the Department of Environmental Studies. Your generous contributions allow us to offer programs and resources that enhance our students' experiences and prepare them for future success.

We extend many thanks to the following individuals for their recent gifts:

Nathan G. Carr '18

Yumi Kim

Matthew Alan King '18

Jessica E. Rogers

Kathleen M. Rogers

Robert T. Rogers, II

Lynn V. Sudak

Heather Sullivan-Catlin

Alexa Zimmerman

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