

SUNY Potsdam

Environmental Studies News



Assistant Professor Kate Cleary, Eileen Liew '23, Riley Notarthomas '23, and NYDEC biologist Angelena Ross look at a spruce grouse during a trip to Tupper Lake as part of the Adirondack Experience.

Photo by Jason Hunter.

Greetings!

In the field of environmental studies, we are required to understand the concept of social-ecological resilience. So, it is no surprise that our department and our students have displayed extraordinary resilience during what has been a most unusual and demanding period in society. We are fortunate that even in the midst of the environmental, economic, public health and social upheavals of 2020 and 2021 we persist in creating the most interdisciplinary and one of the most exciting departments in the SUNY community.

Every year we continue our rigorous academic relationships with the natural sciences, humanities, and social sciences. We continue our extraordinary service and fieldwork opportunities through our collaborations with Adirondack Experience, WISER, and Wilderness Education. We provide our students with “unrivaled hands on research early in their college careers,” as described by Jason Hunter. Just this year our students and faculty built housing for bees, birds, bats, turtles and beetles – for the combined purposes of wildlife conservation and the protection and study of the habits of important flora and fauna.

As you will read in this newsletter, our students joined Dr. Cleary investigating campus wildlife through camera traps, joined Dr. Rogers in the control of the invasive plant, purple loosestrife, and joined Dr. Sullivan-Catlin examining the realities of sustainable living in long term communities. We study residential segregation, environmental literature, and the migrations of people and wildlife. We welcome world renowned experts in the field of environmental studies from Leah Penniman talking about sustainable agriculture and food justice, to an upcoming talk by Robin Wall Kimmerer discussing ethnobotany and indigenous environmental knowledge.

The environmental studies department remains proud of the accomplishments of our students, alumni, and faculty. As usual, we would love to hear what you have been up to. Please stay in touch.

Best wishes,
Claudia J. Ford, Ph.D., Chair

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Meet the Faculty

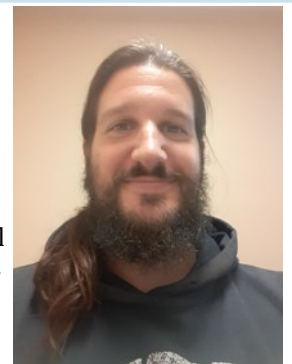


Dr. Kate Cleary is a conservation biologist with experience working in diverse ecosystems in the Rocky Mountain west, Latin America, and most recently, the Adirondacks. She holds a PhD in Ecology and Conservation Genetics from the University of Idaho, and an MSc in Conservation Biology from Colorado 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

- ◆ Kamal Humagain
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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 Associate 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.

Students Construct Birdhouses for Low Mow Zone on Campus

SUNY Potsdam's Sustainability Team and the WISER Center have partnered to establish a "Low Mow Zone" to support sustainability, increase biodiversity, and decrease maintenance costs. Located on the southwest corner of the campus along Rt. 56, this area will have limited mowing and a walking trail will be established around the perimeter. This will provide shelter, food and breeding ground for a variety of wildlife and critical habitat for pollinators. In addition, native grasses and plants with longer roots than typical turf grass stabilize soil, reducing erosion and slowing storm-water runoff. It will also decrease the amount of time, labor, and gas typically needed for mowing.



In Spring 2021 Dr. Heather Sullivan-Catlin's Environment & Society class had the opportunity to complete a service-learning project constructing bird houses to be erected around the new low mow zone.

To hear more from Adriana Hernandez about environmental studies and the birdhouse project, please visit: youtube.com/watch?v=NL87AVWZjVw

Hanss Interns at WISER Center



Lucas Hanss '21 served as an intern in the WISER Center for three years while working towards his degree in environmental studies. He had a hand in many of the Center's projects to promote sustainability and ecological conservation, such as implementing a unique pest control approach and seeding flowers for a wildflower garden.

As directed by SUNY Potsdam's Department of Biology, the Wagner Institute for Sustainability and Ecological Research (WISER), provides applied research and educational programming in sustainability and ecology.

The Center comprises three greenhouse zones (including the Stowell Biodiversity Classroom), a "link" to Stowell where the public can enter from outdoors, and a classroom space with computing stations for students. The WISER Center is utilized by a host of our current classes including sustainable agriculture, general biology, genetics, ecology, plant physiology and botany. New courses in horticulture urban farming, hydroponics and aquaculture will be offered through the WISER Center in the near future.

To hear more about Hanss' experience at the WISER Center, please visit: facebook.com/BearAlumni/videos/5798383386870850

Biodiversity Class Monitors Wildlife on Campus

Assistant Professor Kate Cleary, recently took to the field with her biodiversity conservation class to monitor game cameras that have been placed around the SUNY Potsdam campus. Students also learned about the acoustic monitors placed in Lehman Park to capture bat activity in the area. She, along with biology Professor Dr. Glenn Johnson, presented their findings in August at a regional meeting of the Adirondack Inventory and Monitoring Camera Trap Network at SUNY ESF. To hear Dr. Cleary discuss monitoring wildlife in Lehman Park on SUNY Potsdam's campus, please visit: www.facebook.com/SUNYPotsdam/videos/160385242748522



Transfer Agreement Reached for Students Pursuing a Degree in Environmental Studies

SUNY Potsdam and Westchester Community College have signed a new transfer agreement enabling WCC students who have earned either an Associate in Science (AS) degree in environmental studies or in health and human performance, to pursue their Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in environmental studies or their Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in exercise science, respectively, at Potsdam.

WCC students who graduate with a minimum GPA of 2.0 in those associate programs will be guaranteed acceptance to SUNY Potsdam and will transfer with junior status. Students who participate in this program will have up to 64 credits applied toward completion of the articulated SUNY Potsdam bachelor's degree program.

"We are thrilled to partner with Westchester Community College to offer new pathways for students to further their studies in two of our most hands-on majors—environmental studies and exercise science. WCC graduates are well prepared to succeed in our baccalaureate programs, and we know they will thrive here at Potsdam and in their future careers," said Dr. Bette Bergeron, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at SUNY Potsdam.

"This articulation agreement is an exciting new pathway for our students to advance their academic career in high-demand fields," said Dr. Belinda S. Miles, President of Westchester Community College. "SUNY Potsdam provides our graduates with the opportunity to seamlessly transition to an excellent four-year institution where they can prepare for a career that will help themselves, their families, and their communities."

Dr. Rogers Appears on “North Country Kitchen Conversations”



Assistant Professor Dr. Jessica Rogers sat down with Jody Tosti, former NCPR announcer and reporter and current host of Community Connection on B99.3FM, last March to talk about her work that has taken her across the world. Dr. Rogers was interviewed on International Women’s Day, a day to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women, which “Community Connection” celebrated by interviewing teachers, artists, and grassroots organizers. In her conversation with Tosti, Dr. Rogers discusses studying migration patterns or zebras in Kenya, working in the classroom, women who inspire her, and trying to close the gender gap in the field of Environmental Studies. To hear the full interview, visit: <https://anchor.fm/jody-tosti/episodes/Dr--Jessica-RogersSUNY-Potsdam-Assistant-Professor-of-Environmental-Studies-erbg6d?>

<https://anchor.fm/jody-tosti/episodes/Dr--Jessica-RogersSUNY-Potsdam-Assistant-Professor-of-Environmental-Studies-erbg6d?>

Leah Penniman Delivers Keynote Address for Sustainability Day and Green Living Fair

Last March, the Associated Colleges and partners virtually welcomed keynote speaker Leah Penniman, co-director of [Soul Fire Farm](#) and author of “Farming While Black.” The talk was followed by a live Q&A with Leah, facilitated by Dr. Claudia Ford who is a member of the board of directors for Soul Fire Farm. The program “Uprooting Racism, Seeding Sovereignty” closed with a performance by world-renowned poet, Soul Fire Farm’s Program Manager, Naima Penniman. Leah has more than 20 years of experience as a soil steward and food sovereignty activist, having worked at the [Food Project](#), [Farm School](#), [Many Hands Organic Farm](#), [Youth Grow](#) and with farmers internationally in Ghana, Haiti, and Mexico. She co-founded Soul Fire Farm in 2010 with the mission to reclaim our inherent right to belong to the earth and have agency in the food system as Black and Brown people. Her areas of leadership at Soul Fire include farmer training, international solidarity, perennials, writing, speaking, “making it rain,” and anything that involves heavy lifting, sweat, and soil. Her book “Farming While Black” is a love song for the earth and her peoples.



Dr. Ford Named to AASCU'S Millennium Leadership Initiative

SUNY Potsdam Interim Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Claudia J. Ford has been named to the 2021 **Millennium Leadership Initiative**, a premier leadership development program of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU).

The SUNY Potsdam Environmental Studies faculty member was one of only 32 administrators from across the country to be chosen for the prestigious program.

The Millennium Leadership Initiative provides individuals traditionally underrepresented in the highest ranks of post-secondary education with the opportunity to develop skills, gain a philosophical overview, and build the network and knowledge needed to advance to the presidency.

"I have been fortunate to have the experience of program management roles and responsibilities in both my academic and non-academic careers. I have a graduate business degree, as from early in my professional life I was attracted to learning and practicing the skills of management, administration and leadership. I feel confident as an educator, having spent more than two decades in the classroom; however, I am sensitive to the fact that you cannot simply 'take the best teacher and install them at the principal's desk,'" Ford said. "The president's office skills of administration, planning, fiscal accountability, transformational human resource management, and media relations are learned skills, requiring equal amounts of innate aptitude, skilled guidance, and mentored practice. I am aware that the best way to learn the skills that ensure institutional innovation and transformational best practice are through targeted training and mentorship."

Ford has had a career in international development and women's health spanning four decades and all continents. Beginning in September 2021, following a year of service leading SUNY Potsdam's Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, she will return to the Environmental Studies Department as professor and chair. Ford serves on the boards of the Soul Fire Farm Institute, and The Black Farmer Fund, with both organizations committed to supporting Black farmers, and ending racism and injustice in the food system. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in biology from Columbia University, a Master of Fine Arts degree in creative nonfiction writing from Vermont College of Fine Arts, a Master of Business Administration degree in health administration from Antioch University, and Ph.D. in environmental studies, also from Antioch University. She was recognized by SUNY System Administration as an inaugural **PRODiG** - ("Promoting Recruitment, Opportunity,



Diversity, Inclusion and Growth") Fellow.

A member of the AASCU Board of Directors, SUNY Potsdam President Dr. Kristin G.

Esterberg nominated Ford for the Millennium Leadership Initiative, having recognized her leadership skills and vision firsthand over the past year.

"We at SUNY Potsdam have been fortunate to welcome Dr. Claudia J. Ford to our faculty and to our leadership ranks, at a critical juncture for public higher education and for our nation. Her dedication to serving students and advocacy for equity, justice, and inclusion speaks volumes and has resonated strongly. As a colleague, I have appreciated working closely with Dr. Ford and know that she will prove to be a committed leader and strong champion for the promise of higher education to uplift lives and communities," Esterberg said.

"I am attracted to the MLI program's vision, articulated by the founders as access, excellence and equity in higher education leadership for underrepresented professionals. I was thrilled to be accepted to this nationally respected program and I appreciate the opportunity to hone my skills so that I can bring my governance vision to ensuring that transformational higher education is attainable," Ford said. "Dr. Mary Sias, the MLI director, says, 'The job of a presidency is not one you can do by yourself, you have to be able to collaborate.' It appears that the foundation of the MLI program rests on the support of underrepresented professional though excellent mentoring and collaboration. I find this opportunity to be very desirable at this point in my career and I am honored that President Esterberg nominated me to this prestigious program."

Students Learn About Sustainable Agriculture

Last fall, students in Dr. Katherine Cleary's Sustainable Agriculture course visited the WISER Center on the SUNY Potsdam campus for some hands-on learning harvesting honeycomb and greens in the greenhouse.



"This is the coolest thing I've ever done in my life! I never thought I would be able to harvest honey and plants. It's an amazing opportunity."

-Kali Shores '23 (left), environmental studies major and sustainability minor



Student Spotlight: Grace Conway

From the beaches of Long Island to the mountains of Northern New York, Grace Conway '24 jumped at the opportunity for a change in scenery when she graduated from high school. Now she's pursuing a degree in environmental studies at SUNY Potsdam, and after just one year at the College, she's already receiving grant funding to conduct research on threatened Blanding's turtles.

In high school, Conway planned on attending SUNY Plattsburgh, but during a road trip to look at colleges, a visit to SUNY Potsdam sent her down a different path.

For the Long Island native, SUNY Potsdam provided a welcome contrast to the coastal living in which had grown accustomed. She immediately enrolled in the College's Adirondack Experience program—an opportunity for first-year students to take three interdisciplinary courses with a common environmental studies theme, and then explore the six-million-acre Adirondack Park.

Combining Introduction to Environmental Studies with Dr. Kate Cleary, Adirondack Ecology with Dr. Glenn Johnson and Writing in the Adirondacks with Dr. Donald McNutt, Conway wasted no time learning about her new surroundings, and the breathtaking wilderness just a short drive from campus. Every Friday during the Fall 2020 semester, she set out on new adventures to explore different ecosystems, everything from the summit of Mount Arab, Lampson Falls, and the Spring Pond Bog, to Cranberry Lake.

"I came in knowing that I wanted to do environmental studies after hearing the admissions counselor talk about the different majors and the Adirondack Experience. I found a lot of footing through that program—especially Intro to Environmental



Grace Conway '24 uses a telemetry receiver to try to locate a Blanding's turtle in Lisbon, N.Y.

Studies where we had a whole unit on jobs and future careers in the outdoors," she said.

A trip to Cranberry Lake reinforced her decision. She remembers stepping out on the peat moss as she explored the wetlands alongside lake, the third-largest body of water in the Adirondacks. For a first-year student entering college during the global pandemic, the Adirondack Experience also offered a welcome respite from her Zoom classes and pooled saliva testing.

"Those were my only three classes that were in person. I was just so excited that we were able to go out and explore all the different areas up here, that are so different from the beach environment that I'm used to. That was awesome," Conway said.

In the Spring of 2021, her hands-on education continued after meeting Grace Romer '24, another first-year student on campus who was conducting a research project for the general honors program.

Romer had set up motion-activated cameras to monitor wildlife, and Conway became her enthusiastic assistant. Together they installed stakes to the images of wildlife.

Building on that experience, Dr. Johnson told Conway about a SUNY Research Foundation grant, an opportunity for her to receive funding to help him with ongoing efforts to protect Blanding's turtles in Northern New York. Conway teamed up with Dana Holmlund '21 and Gabby Toriseva '23 (pictured right) on several projects to help the threatened species. The trio has been spending their days wading through swamps using telemetry receivers to pinpoint the location of the slow-moving reptiles. Once found, they record their location and swap out GPS monitors tracking the turtles' nesting patterns.

At night, they shifted gears and spend hours monitoring female turtles arriving at one of four sandy nesting sites in Lisbon, or two other sites in Waddington and Massena.

"We're there until the last turtle leaves," Conway said. "Whenever she wants to head out, that's when we go. One time we were there until 2 a.m. The female turtle was taking a while, just checking around the site to see where she wanted to lay her eggs. She ended up not even nesting that night."

When the female turtles do nest, Conway, and



Johnson's other research assistants, are responsible for locating the eggs, often buried deep in the sand, and installing protective fencing. That technique, coupled with an electric fence that runs around the perimeter of the sandpits, allows the turtles to pass unobstructed while keeping predators at bay.

It's not a task for the impatient as the shelled reptiles move at their own pace, ambling along in search of the perfect nesting locations. Without the intervention of Conway and her peers—skunks, raccoons, and other predators present a very real danger to the Blanding's turtles.

"Seeing these naturally occurring sandpits is really cool too, I've never studied anything like that," Conway said. "I really like the hands-on experience and learning all of these different techniques."

After the nesting season ends in July, Conway moves into a new phase of the project, going through hundreds of photographs—taken once every minute at the nesting sites—to further analyze the nesting patterns of Blanding's turtles.

With unrivaled hands-on research opportunities early in her college career, the sky is the limit for Conway. Like the spongy moss she examined at Cranberry Lake last fall, she will continue absorbing knowledge from her professors at SUNY Potsdam, and laying the groundwork for a career in environmental studies.



A Blanding's turtle in Lisbon, N.Y.

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.



Sarah Chappell '16 holds a BA in Environmental Studies, a BS Business Administration and a minor in Music Business from SUNY Potsdam. She served as a Solar Sales Coordinator and Commercial Energy Consultant from 2016-2019. Currently, Sarah is a Business Development Volunteer for Peace Corps Ukraine working for a NGO called Flora, which focuses on youth ecological education, human rights, and activism.

Randy Monica, Jr. '19 graduated with an Environmental Studies major, and an Environmental Science and Political Science minor. In December 2020, he accepted a position as a Utility Analyst for the NYS Department of Public Service in Albany, NY. Under the Public Service Commission, the five-member commission regulates utilities (gas, electric, water, telecom) in New York State. "Basically, my job is to pay attention to what goes on in the wholesale market for electricity, which is run by the NY Independent System Operator, and what goes on at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (which has jurisdiction over the wholesale market). DPS Staff represents the State in stakeholder meetings and at FERC to advocate for NYS consumers and our renewable energy goals."



Where Are They Now?

Kevin Chlad '08 majored in Environmental Studies and minored in Wilderness Education at SUNY Potsdam. In 2011, Chlad joined the Adirondack Council staff where he leads the Council's Albany-based Government Relations team, building coalitions and lobbying government officials to improve protection and grow funding for the Adirondack Park.

"In my time at the Council, I have had a variety of responsibilities as a staff member of the government relations team, but have been honored to serve as the Director of Government Relations for the last few years. Our government relations team is responsible for interacting with policymakers, partners, and stakeholders to advocate for the funding and policies that our Adirondack Park needs. While we work proactively to enhance protections and funding for the Adirondacks, we also are responsible for stopping bad things from happening."



In 2016, he organized volunteers from across the state for the Adirondack Park Wilderness Campaign. That has resulted in a Wilderness classification for the Boreas Ponds and to the most significant expansion of the High Peaks Wilderness area in decades. His persistence each year also results in more funding for Forest Preserve stewardship.

"Adirondack Wild has admired Kevin's work for a number of years. We've worked with him as part of a coalition of Adirondack groups and we've noticed how he steers citizen advocacy for the Adirondack Park in very productive directions, just as Paul Schaefer used to do."

-Adirondack Wild's managing partner, David Gibson



In November, Chlad was presented the Adirondack Wild: Friends of the Forest Preserve 2020 Paul Schaefer Wilderness Award at a ceremony at the Kelly Adirondack Center of Union College. The organization's highest honor, The Paul Schaefer Wilderness Award is named for foremost 20th century wilderness champion and Adirondack coalition leader Paul Schaefer (1908-1996).

In his spare time, he enjoys the wild places of the Park with his wife and child.

Beetlemania

Standing outside SUNY Potsdam's WISER Greenhouse, Grace Romer '24 uses an aspirator to inhale a beetle into a small glass vial. The tiny beetle, about half the size of a fingernail, is one of thousands of little warriors leading the fight against the purple loosestrife, an invasive species in Northern New York's wetlands.

What started in 2017 as a GIS mapping project for [Dr. Jessica Rogers](#) and her environmental studies students to locate purple loosestrife throughout the North Country, has expanded to include a solution for eliminating the invasive plants by inserting beetles into the equation.

In the beginning, the purple loosestrife was largely understudied in Northern New York. The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) had only noted five infestations in St. Lawrence County in 2017, but by the end of the summer, Rogers and her and her research assistants had pinpointed 663 individual points where the purple loosestrife was located along state highways. "I grew up in Potsdam, and when I first came back and started teaching in the North Country, one of things that I noticed was that the wetlands looked different, especially along the highways," Rogers said. "We knew we were on to something, that the purple loosestrife needed to be monitored."

A year later, Rogers took that initial data, and started looking for solutions to counterattack the invasive plants. The DEC provided her with 1,100 *Galeruca californiensis* beetles to start the fight against the pretty



purple plant—launching the second phase of her project. "The DEC literally caught them for me downstate and mailed them up here, and I released them. I started monitoring Upper and Lower Lakes Wildlife Management Area outside of Canton, and we've been studying that area every year, and adding beetles. The mapping has informed where we need more beetles," she said.

Fast forward to the summer of 2021, and their efforts are starting to be seen around the North Country. "The effect of what we're doing is becoming clear. I almost cried with joy when I saw live beetles waiting for us at our field site where we'd never seen them before," Rogers said.

In May, two of her students, Romer and Samuel Ernest '21, joined forces to dig up purple loosestrife plants in local wetlands, collected beetles, and combined them in the artificial wetland (beetle hatchery) behind the WISER Greenhouse on campus—the incubator as it were, to grow the next batch of insects. After collecting 43 of the plants, they were placed in kiddie pools with 10-15 beetles for each purple loosestrife, before enclosing them all in netting.

In July, just two months later, the number of beetles had grown to 8,000. Those insects were in turn strategically released into the wild to target the invasive species. The beetles have a one-track mind, only foraging on the purple plants and leaving the other non-invasive species in the wetlands unharmed.



Romer and Ernest have been joined by Kaitlyn Bernhardt '23, Laura Schappert '08 & '22 and Gabby Toriseva '23 this summer, the largest group of research assistants that Rogers has ever worked with. With the beetles now fully released into the wild, the five students are busy walking a 175-mile stretch of New York State highways to locate and map purple loosestrife using GPS receivers to create GIS maps—data that will inform decisions about beetle disbursement for next year.

“The big thing that the students get by the end of the project is the impact we can have with just small decisions,” she said. “Nothing I’ve done costs a lot of money. All of it can be done with your phone and a little bit of software, and a lot of time and effort and a willingness to be out in the heat in August documenting it.”



The project is also drawing interest from the New York State Department of Transportation as they look to Rogers for scientific evidence on best practices for mowing.

“The big thing that the students get by the end of the project is the impact we can have with just small decisions.”

-Dr. Jessica Rogers



If not done correctly, mowing along the State Highways can more rapidly spread the purple loosestrife seeds and exacerbate the problem. “There’s a New York State law that was just passed to protect monarch habitat, and so the DOT is required to look at the habitat they’re mowing and not mow in certain ways. Our regional director for the DOT is willing to piggyback my research on top of that mandate, which is really nice.”

All five of Rogers’ students are not only receiving valuable hands-on training in the field, but also grant funding through the Lougheed Center for Applied Learning and the Collegiate Science & Technology Entry Program, something that allowed Romer to cut short her summer job as a cashier at Marshalls to focus on her career path.



“I think it’s a great starting opportunity for anyone who wants to be involved in research. Dr. Rogers is really good about easing students in and giving them step by step instructions,” Romer said. “I want to be an environmental lawyer and I feel like this is a really good back ground for whatever I’m doing in the future.”

Article and photos by Jason Hunter

Give to the Environmental Studies Department

SUNY Potsdam's Department of Environmental Studies offers many programs and experiences for students that would not be possible without your support. From field experiences to scholarships, your generosity provides opportunities for students to excel as scholars and citizens of the world. YOU can make a difference in the lives of our students!

- **Give online** Visit SUNY Potsdam's giving form at potsdam.edu/give. To restrict your gift, select "Other" in the designation field and type "Department of Environmental Studies."
- **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.
- **Establish an endowed fund** to impact environmental studies students for generations.

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

(315) 267-3253

invest@potsdam.edu

www.potsdam.edu/giving

Thank you for joining with other alumni and friends to ensure the continued growth of our department and our students!



Make your gift to support Environmental Studies today!



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

Faculty Awards and Accolades

- ◆ **Dr. Kate Cleary** was awarded two grants to aid in research and department development. The \$25,000 GLBCONNECT Grant called “Unravelling genetic connectivity patterns of aquatic invasive species in the New York Great Lakes Basin” was written with Clarkson University colleague Drew David. It will fund an investigation into genetic patterns of two species of mystery snail, which will help determine which populations can most easily be eradicated. She also collaborated with Dr. Jessica Rogers to received the \$2,100 Lougheed Applied Learning Grant for their work “Assessing and Enhancing Applied Learning in Environmental Studies.” This provided funding to hire an outside consultant to develop and improve applied learning opportunities in the Environmental Studies Department.
- ◆ **Dr. Claudia Ford** received the 2021 President’s Award for Fostering a Welcoming and Inclusive Campus Climate. The award is given to an individual who has demonstrated proactive engagement with the community on topics of DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion), collaborated with various constituencies on campus with respect to DEI, and demonstrated commitment to fostering a welcoming and inclusive campus climate.
- ◆ **Dr. Matthew LaVine** was honored with the 2021 Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Faculty Service. He has tirelessly served the SUNY Potsdam community through participation in shared governance, community outreach and service, and as a member of countless committees and working groups. He boasts a portfolio of more than 50 invited talks and workshops on critical issues to the community. LaVine serves as the chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Action Coalition subcommittee on diversity programming, and is the founder of the College’s Days of Reflection programming, a two-day series of workshops, lectures, panels and discussions held each semester for faculty, staff and students. Over the past year, LaVine has worked with colleagues to spearhead the SUNY Potsdam/Soliya First Year Connect Anti-Racism Dialogue Project.
- ◆ **Dr. Jessica Rogers** was selected as a participant in the 2021 Dr. Nuala McGann Drescher Leave Program for her scholarship focused on an Analysis of an Invasive Wetland Species in Northern New York. The Drescher Leave Program enhances employment opportunities for employees who are preparing for continuing or permanent appointment and seeks to promote diversity, inclusion, and equal opportunity for specific employees in a department, unit, program, or school .



Did you know...

The Department of Environmental Studies has it’s own Facebook page! Follow us at: facebook.com/SUNYPotsdamEnvironmentalStudies



ES Students Give Back

Last spring, students from Dr. Cleary's ENVR 290 Environmental Inquiry volunteered for the [St. Lawrence Land Trust](#), clearing trails and hoisting signs. The Land Trust helps to conserve open space, preserve valuable ecological services, protect culturally-important features, and enhance outdoor recreational opportunities. Volunteering for non-profit organizations like the land trust helps keep them sustainable.



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