



NYWEA

LEADING THE WAY IN
WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Their Success is Our Success!



Where are our scholarship winners today?

As a way to track the progress of our scholarship program, we have checked back with some of our winners. Presented here are a few success stories.

Investment in the future of our water industry is vital. The primary reason we set up the scholarship program

in 1998 was to encourage more students to pursue environmental careers.

Help us continue to award more scholarships, please consider making a pledge or donation now!



Sidney Lok, 2015 Major Scholarship Recipient

Sidney, a freshman at Cornell University, works with an engineering team, AguaClara. AguaClara is dedicated to creating high-reliability, low cost solutions to global water problems. Their foam filter is a relatively new technology targeting smaller villages which cannot house a full-scale AguaClara plan. Along with other AguaClara subteams at Cornell, the foam filter cleaning team is working towards the goal to make clean drinking water more easily accessible in other countries – in particular, they are looking for new ways to improve the cleaning efficiency of foam in order to increase the life span and filtration efficiency of foam filters.



Sarah A. Meyer, 1999 Scholarship Recipient

Sarah pursued her Bachelors of Science (2000) and Masters of Professional Studies (2003) from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Her higher education concentrated on information and technology, environmental science, and water and wetland resource studies. Sarah has served as the Finger Lakes Institute's (at Hobart and William Smith Colleges) Community Outreach Coordinator since 2004. As such, she provides leadership and direction for the FLI community outreach and public service programs and multiple projects – focused on food systems, sustainable agriculture, urban forestry, green infrastructure and environmental stewardship. Sarah has been employed by the Federation of New York State Solid Waste Associations, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, The Great Lakes Research Consortium, and the United States Forest Service Wrangell Ranger District in Wrangell, AK. Through her experiences, Sarah has gained skills in and knowledge of public relations, environmental education, information design and watershed hydrology. In her free time, Sarah enjoys kayaking within the Finger Lakes region, travel, nature photography, cycling and gardening. Sarah credits her early interest in the environment and protecting the Finger Lakes to her participation in the Girl Scouts of America and the Student Conservation Association.



Rachel Cluett, 2006 Major Scholarship Recipient

Rachel received a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resources from Cornell University. Currently, Rachel works as a Research Analyst at the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) where her research focuses on reducing energy use in buildings through policies, programs and technologies. She focuses on energy efficiency in the residential sector – including labeling and energy use disclosure, energy efficiency program design, and appliance and equipment efficiency policy and regulation. At ACEEE, Rachel is working on a project to scale up energy and water savings in the Great Lakes region through the development of joint energy and water utility efficiency programs.

Prior to her work at ACEEE, Rachel spent two years conducting residential energy audits and doing performance testing for green buildings in the Washington, DC area. She is a Building Performance Institute (BPI)-certified Building Analyst and Envelope Professional.



Caitlyn Nicols, 2007 NG Kaul Memorial Scholarship Recipient

Since joining Interstate Environmental Commission (IEC) in 2002 and NEIWPCC in December 2012, Caitlyn has been involved in field sampling and laboratory work, training, project coordination and implementation. Currently, she helps develop and manage IEC District monitoring activities and chairs the Shared Waterways Monitoring Workgroup. Caitlyn is actively involved in the Long Island Sound Study (LISS) and New York-New Jersey Harbor and Estuary Program (NY-NJ HEP). She is responsible for the agency's Dry Weather Discharge Inspection Program. Caitlyn is expanding IEC District's outreach activities and is the liaison between IEC District and the College of Staten Island, CUNY.

Caitlyn acts as mentor to student interns, project supervisor on joint initiatives with the Center for Environmental Science, and is a thesis advisor for the Environmental Science M.S. Program. She holds a Ph.D. in Earth and Environmental Sciences from the City University of New York Graduate Center and is very honored to be a NG Kaul Memorial Scholarship recipient.



Luke Scannell, 2007 Major Scholarship Recipient

Luke graduated as an undergrad from the University at Buffalo, SUNY, in 2011 with a Bachelor of Science degree in both Civil Engineering and Environmental Engineering. He has NYWEA to thank for provoking his interest in environmental engineering as a major, which then guided him to pursue it in a graduate program. He is now a Ph.D. student at the University at Buffalo, SUNY, pursuing research in surface water remediation and treatment. He's looking at various methods of phytoremediation of heavy metals, especially using algae to remove them from waters, such as hydrofracking-produced water.

Luke is also starting to pursue research into using low technology water treatment methods for use in third world countries. In 2012 he was awarded the IGERT fellowship for two years and has taken part in many interdisciplinary activities, especially with the chemistry and chemical engineering departments on campus. In 2011–2012, and again in 2014–2015, he served as a teaching assistant for the Civil Engineering Department. In time away from campus, he is an engineering mentor for four middle school Future Cities Teams at Mill Middle School in Buffalo, NY.



Holli Monroe, 2008 Scholarship Recipient

Holli graduated from the Rochester Institute of Technology in 2013 after completing her five-year degree in Mechanical Engineering with a technical concentration in Energy and the Environment and a minor in Economics.

Holli currently works for the New York Power Authority as an Assistant Conservation Engineer II. In this capacity, Holli manages and implements energy efficiency projects within New York State. At any given time, her job responsibilities may include up to six or more concurrent projects. In this role Holli develops cost recovery agreements, prepares engineering analyses, evaluates project scopes, verifies bid specifications, reviews project activities for technical content, solves problems related to construction issues, coordinates activities involving contractors, and more. Holli's career helps further NYPA's goals of improving energy efficiency, reducing energy consumption, and stimulating new energy technologies, all with respect to environmental protection, energy security, and economic growth.

In Holli's words, the NYWEA scholarship was very appreciated, "Thank you! Seven years ago your support and generosity helped me pursue the educational and professional path that I am on now. Your choice to select me as a scholarship recipient has, without a doubt, contributed to achieving my goals. I am as thankful now as I was then for your help and encouragement."



Michael Jay Walsh, 2009 NG Kaul Memorial Scholarship Recipient

The recognition granted by the NG Kaul Memorial Scholarship provided Mike with the assurance that a career path focused on addressing the intersection of science and policy would be a worthwhile use of his doctoral training. This interest led him to pursue a nontraditional postdoctoral position at the Center for Integration of Science and Industry, an academic think tank at Bentley University in Waltham, Massachusetts. The goal of this center is to provide scholarship that aids the translation of scientific discoveries to create public value. Here Mike had the opportunity to study the emergence of the algal biotechnology industry.

Mike is collaborating with an academic-industry research consortia that has received over \$10 million in funding from the Department of Energy to identify ways that value can be extracted from this renewable resource. He finds algae and this industry fascinating because of the swath of potential applications that algae have – including feed, fuel, fertilizer, pharmaceuticals and water treatment. All that is needed is the development and implementation of the appropriate business models to ensure sustainable growth of this industry. Mike hopes to apply his research to a career focused on transcending the boundaries between science, business and policy to accelerate the development and commercialization of sustainable technology platforms such as algae.



Alexandria Kuhl, 2008 Major Scholarship Recipient

Alex graduated in 2012 from SUNY Brockport with a double major, Bachelor of Science degrees in Physics and Water Resources, and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Environmental Geosciences at Michigan State University.

Alexandria is interested in using geophysical techniques and modeling to investigate how different factors influence the behavior of water in the near sub-surface. She is currently focusing on coupling hydrological and geophysical models to optimize root-uptake functions and predict the impacts of changing land-use and climate. She hopes to continue in a career using applied geophysics to study the vadose zone as a consultant or in academia.

Alex would like to tell NYWEA scholarship donors how much the huge boost from this scholarship helped her; she graduated without debt and is now a homeowner (even though she's still a grad student!) and is looking forward to the day when she can give back!



Amanda LaValle, 2010 NG Kaul Memorial Scholarship Recipient

As a recipient of the NG Kaul Memorial Scholarship, Amanda is extremely grateful for not only the financial assistance while pursuing her graduate studies but for the recognition by the scholarship committee of her educational goals as well as her commitment to municipal government. She has always felt very strongly devoted to both the study and practice of science and policy. However, the opportunities to be recognized and encouraged in these aspirations seem rare and Amanda says it was extremely meaningful to be acknowledged by NYWEA in this regard.

Amanda currently heads the Ulster County Department of the Environment, a county level department focused on a wide variety of environmental issues impacting Ulster County and Ulster County government from sustainability to watershed protection. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Society from Cornell University and earned her Master of Arts from SUNY Empire in 2011.

Amanda firmly believes the NG Kaul Scholarship was a charge; it continues to challenge her to look for ways to mentor and give to others choosing a career path that may be less obvious than many but in no way less important.



Hannah George, 2012 Scholarship Recipient

Hannah George is currently a junior at Cornell University majoring in Biology and Society with a minor in Natural Resources. She has recently been accepted into the Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program (DDCSP). The goal of the DDCSP is to provide conservation-related research opportunities and support to undergraduate students who have a strong interest in environmental issues and cultural diversity.

Over the summer of 2014 Hannah worked on Oneida Lake at the Cornell Biological Field Station studying limnology and conducting a research project on cyanobacteria blooms. This research involved measuring dissolved oxygen, temperature, and chlorophyll levels in Oneida Lake. During the summer of 2015 she will be working for New York State doing conservation research. Additionally, Hannah is making a presentation on "Climate Change and Cyanobacteria Blooms in Oneida Lake" at the 87th Annual Meeting in New York City in February 2015.

According to Hannah, her NYWEA scholarship and her acceptance into the DDCSP are amazing opportunities and she's glad to be able to continue exploring water issues in her home state of New York!



Ethan Bodnaruk, 2013 NG Kaul Memorial Scholarship Recipient

Ethan earned his Bachelor of Science in Engineering from Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, CA, and a Masters of Science in Nuclear Engineering from North Carolina State University.

After working with the National Nuclear Security Administration for a few years, he found his passion in environmental issues and enrolled at SUNY-ESF as a Ph.D. student in Ecological Engineering. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate. His research focuses on the creation of tools and analyses to help cities better manage the ecosystem services provided by urban trees and vegetation. His work quantifies ecosystem service gradients with respect to tree cover and explores tradeoffs between different ecosystem services and indicators of environmental justice.

In addition to urban ecology, Ethan is also interested in decentralized ecological waste management, and sees the intersection of ecological engineering, social science, and public engagement as a crucial means to promote environmental stewardship. He is active with the SUNY-ESF Engineers for a Sustainable Society (ESS) club, spearheading one of their projects in Haiti with an NGO focusing on ecological sanitation. He trains in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and is a leader in an interfaith movement focusing on environmental issues.

Although originally from the deserts of Tucson, AZ, Ethan and his wife Elisabeth are happily settled in Syracuse as first-time homeowners and have two dogs. He is grateful for the support of NYWEA and looks forward to being more involved over time, especially after finishing his degree.



Your help translates directly to our scholarship winners.
Please consider making a pledge or donation now.