

GRADUATE STUDENT BIOS



My name is Steve Fleck and I'm a 2011 graduate from the University at Buffalo. I graduated with a degree in Philosophy, but my true passion aligned more closely with my minor, environmental studies. After graduation I took many temporary, mainly plant-centered, positions and internships with Parks & Recreation, The Department of Environmental Conservation, the Buffalo Botanical Gardens, Ecology and Environment, and in early 2013 moved to Escalante, Utah, to do botanical work under the Bureau of Land Management. In 2014, I decided that I wanted to move back to Buffalo, NY, to pursue a master's degree in biology at SUNY Buffalo State. After a semester of undergraduate refresher courses, I met Dr. Pérez-Fuentetaja and began working for her soon afterwards, first as a technician and more recently as a graduate student. I am applying my background in botany to explore

the relationship between young-of-the-year fish and aquatic vegetation beds. I'm unsure of what the future holds, but I plan on continuing plant-related research and potentially pursuing a PhD.



My name is Jo Johnson and I am in my first semester as a Great Lakes Ecosystems Science (GLES) M.A. student. I was raised in the Hudson Valley, and settled in Buffalo six years ago. I graduated in May 2015 with a Bachelor of Arts in Biology at Buffalo State. I would like to research the immune response of emerald shiners that are living in sewage environments, and gather E. coli data for each site. I am an advocate of environmental conservation, and aspire to help bridge the gap between scientists and citizen activists.

I hope to obtain a Ph.D in aquatic ecology, while continuing my involvement in social outreach and engagement.



My name is Colleen Kolb and I am in my first year in the Great Lakes Ecosystem Science M.A. program. I am originally from Rochester, NY, and I obtained my bachelor's degree in environmental science with a concentration in aquatic ecology and biology from the State University of New York at Brockport. While I was at Brockport I was an aquaculture assistant and conducted research on fatty acids in different species of fish. It was through these projects that my interest in aquatic organisms and their chemical make-up grew. My thesis work will focus on the fatty acid analysis of the emerald shiner.

Great Lakes Center Newsletter

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