

ESS Newsletter

October, 2023



This year's SEA cleanup crew!

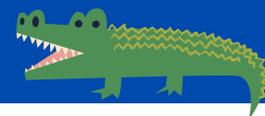
French Creek Cleanup

What better way to organize and make a difference in the local area than to participate in the annual FCVC French Creek Valley Watershed Cleanup? Students continued this tradition in early September, volunteering with multiple green clubs on campus to collect as much trash from the watershed as possible! After doing this, the trash was then brought to Cochran Fair Grounds where it was weighed, followed by a celebratory gathering with all the other volunteers! Not only was the event an excellent time for everyone involved, but it was a great success as well! All volunteer groups gathered actual tons of trash, with SEA's group specifically collecting over 1,000 lbs on their own! Overall, this provided students with great hands-on experience with sustainability and played a major role in the continued efforts to keep Meadville's waterways clean. Thank you to everyone who participated!

Blue & Gold Weekend Alumni Lunch

On Friday September 29th, Allegheny's Environmental Science and Sustainability Department hosted a unique alumni lunch to kick off Blue & Gold weekend. The event was organized by Phil Foxman in the Alumni Office; Brian Collingwood, Director of the Career Center; and Eric Pallant, Christine Scott Nelson '73 Endowed Professor in Environmental Science and Sustainability.

The lunch featured nine alumni who graduated within the past few years and live close enough to visit campus. In attendance were George Ackerman '21, Pittsburgh Park Ranger; Meredith Barney, '21, Assistant Research Scientist at the Watershed Research Conservation Center; Katie Brozell '23, Habitat Maintenance at PA Game Commission; Sydney Holler '19, Nutrient Management Conservation Technician at Crawford County Conservation District; Bailey Kozalla '22, Watershed Specialist at Venango Conservation District; Hannah Heutsche '23, Educator for the National Park Service in Boston; Molly Tarvin '22, Sustainability Coordinator at Mercyhurst University; and Ethan Woodfill '22, Glass Recycling Coordinator for the PA Resources Council; and a few other alumni. Students were able to network and learn about navigating the challenges of joining the workforce in ESS!



The Search for New Professors

With the recent departure of Beth Choate and permission to hire an additional professor, the department has begun a national search for two new faculty members.

Terry Bensel says the department has identified current students' interests as laying primarily within the three broad disciplines of climate, food, and water. With that information, the department will work to find the faculty best equipped to teach to those interests, with one caveat. "We're trying to hire the best teachers, and their disciplinary focus comes second. Not the other way around," Bensel said.

There will be a single nationally-advertised job posting for both open positions. The job posting will be up by the end of October, and students can expect to see candidates on campus for in-person interviews and trial public lectures early in the second semester. The goal is to have two new professors teaching this time next year.

The department will involve students in the hiring process via the faculty search committee and public feedback when final candidates are on campus. Bensel said it is a priority for student representatives to represent what the department looks like and who the department is.

"Hiring a single faculty member is a big decision," Bensel said. "Hiring two is significant."



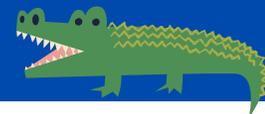
Sebastian cutting down a tree in chainsaw training.



Alumni Highlight - Sebastian McCrae

Sebastian McCrae graduated from Allegheny in 2022 and since then has worked at some cool positions! The first position he had after graduation was with an Americorps program called the Montana Conservation Corps in the eastern half of Lolo National Forest. Here, he did timber sale preparation and conducted old growth stand exams. After this program ended in October 2022, he started as a wrangler ranch hand at a 1,200 acre farm in Colorado where he was responsible for watching after a herd of 94 horses and doing various odd jobs around the farm. Now he is working with the Washington Department of Natural Resources as a forester. His advice for current students is to do lots of exploration in your freshman and sophomore year to find what you really enjoy and then take classes and internships that are specific to that interest because many employers value in-depth knowledge on certain topics.





Professor Ludwig and students by a windmill on the Germany Trip!

Julia Ludwig Interview

Julia Ludwig, a dedicated German professor, grew up in Germany and has long always been a "tree hugger." Ludwig loves the collaborative spirit of the ESS department and emphasizes the importance of humanities in understanding ecological issues. In the summer of 2022, she co-led an educational trip to Germany titled "How Green is Green: Sustainability of Germany Past and Present." The journey explored diverse aspects of sustainability, from wind power in the north to the "green capital of Europe," Freiburg, and even the environmental challenges posed by open-cast coal mining in East Germany. This trip allowed students to gain a profound understanding of Germany's regional sustainability and cultural aspects. In the upcoming spring semester, Ludwig is excited to teach "German Environmentalism" again, offering students the opportunity to delve deeper into similar topics. She believes that cultural comparisons are essential in helping students appreciate the intricate relationship between humans and the non-human world. Her continued dedication to environmental education does not go unrecognized!

Walk in the Woods

Underfoot they crunch
like bones and eggshells, death and
life: one in the same

colors melt into
foot and paw prints on the path
everything walks on

- Katelyn Bombalski '26



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**Interested in writing for the
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