

Congratulations to our graduates!

Macy Abramson
Wynn Arellano
Kate Beisner
Ava Bjorkman-Tracy
Olivia Bonde
Giacomo Borso
Ethan Burke
Vinny Calamia-Reyes
Sam Cox
Kindal Culpepper
Allie Daum
Anna Doane
Shaelyn Dossett
Miguel Garrido
James Guill
Dylan Hadley
Sarah Harney
Kristoff Haspel-Talavera
Atticus Head
Angie Herbert
Daphne Homen
Daniel Hopkins
Justin Huffman
Liza Hurley
Molly Jackson
Melanie Juarez
Rey Malone
Audrey McHenry
Ella Menzi
Calvin Meyers
Zoe Montgomery
Nicole Mooradian
Laura Nelson
Albert Pallasch
Tess Parker
Jade Pedigo
Omar Ponce-Moreno
Presley Price
Abigail Pritchard
Jess Rogerson
A.J. Rowe
Eden Simmons
Abbie Stabosz
Ashley Tweed
Sailor Williams

ENVS Spotlight

Helene puts our curriculum to use

From water quality, landslides, and flood recurrence intervals to river-bank restoration and forest health, our students put their skills to action when Helene impacted our region.

Our students used remote sensing to constrain the amount of forest lost due to winds, calculated the recurrence interval of this scale of flood, restored riverbanks, and more.

These photos show one of our Ecology classes working to clear debris, plant bundles of live willow tree branches, and stabilize a portion of the Swannanoa River in collaboration with RiverLink.



Photos courtesy of unca.edu



Special Thanks to our Supporters

Thanks to those who donated to our department and our scholarship funds. Because of you we are able to enrich our curriculum and provide an impressive number of scholarships.



Ashley Case

Faculty News

Ashley Case designed a new environmental justice course in which students collaborated with local nonprofits to create ArcGIS StoryMaps that showcased their work and amplified the nonprofits' missions. She also guided students in a restoration project following Hurricane Helene, emphasizing streambank stabilization, invasive species removal, and riparian restoration. Both supported partnerships with River-Link, South Side Community Farm, and Dogwood Alliance.



Dr. Dee Eggers

After 26 years with our department, Dr. Dee Eggers is retiring. She has taught our environmental management and policy classes and has been awarded the Ester Cunningham Award from MountainTrue, the Environmental Leadership award from the Student Environmental Center, a University Service Award, and a University Teaching Award. We wish her a joyful retirement!

Dr. David Gillette won this years Teaching Excellence in the Natural Sciences award!



Dr. David Gillette

Dr. Jake Hagedorn gave a couple of community talks on climate change fundamentals and successful mitigation measures. He and his agricultural students enjoyed growing vegetables and flowers in the ROOTS garden. He was selected as a Nielson Fellow for early career faculty at small liberal arts colleges. He is enjoying collaborating with area farmers in conducting soil nutrient cycling research of agroecological management practices.



Dr. Jake Hagedorn

Dr. Casey King developed two new environmental systems science courses - one analyzing ecosystem-based approaches for managing resources and addressing climate change and one assessing food systems in the context of rapid environmental and social change. She recently celebrated the 2024 McCullough Fellows who successfully completed sustainability research in service to the WNC community.

Dr. Jackie Langille was this years Distinguished Teacher of the Year and got to make a special video welcoming this year's incoming students. She also received two grants, one from NC Collaboratory and another from NCDOT, to constrain the role of bedrock structures in Helene related landslides.



Dr. Casey King

Dr. Andrew Laughlin, along with two undergraduate research students, concluded an 8-year bird resurvey project in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, exploring how birds have responded to 25 years of environmental change. He'll be co-leading a summer 2025 study abroad program to Panama, along with Dr. Becca Hale (BIOL).



Dr. Jackie Langille

Dr. Brittani McNamee was awarded a grant from the University Teaching Council to make thin sections of the Environmental Science Rock Garden. This collection will support student learning in Mineralogy and Petrology. The grant also supported the creation of an ArcGIS StoryMap that highlights the unique mining and geological history represented in the rock garden.

Dr. Irene Rossell published two research papers in 2024, one on a multi-year study of Snakeskin Liverwort and the other on the forest herb Crinkleroot. Her undergraduate research students started new projects on the green alder balds at Roan Highlands, and the ecology of the evergreen plant Crossvine.



Dr. Andrew Laughlin



Dr. Brittani McNamee



Dr. Irene Rossell



Landon Ward



Dr. Jeff Wilcox

Congratulations
to this years
scholarship
recipients!

Scholarships
provided by:

ENVS Alumni

Friends of the Earth
Garden Club

Southern Appalachian
Mountains Initiative

Richard P. Maas
Memorial Fund

Gretel and Hans
Timan Fund

Darlene and Gene
McCorkle Fund

Bill and Peggy Steiner

Blue Ridge Audubon
Society

Rebecca Reinhardt
Memorial Fund

Payne and Ouellette
Fund

French Broad River
Garden Club Foundation

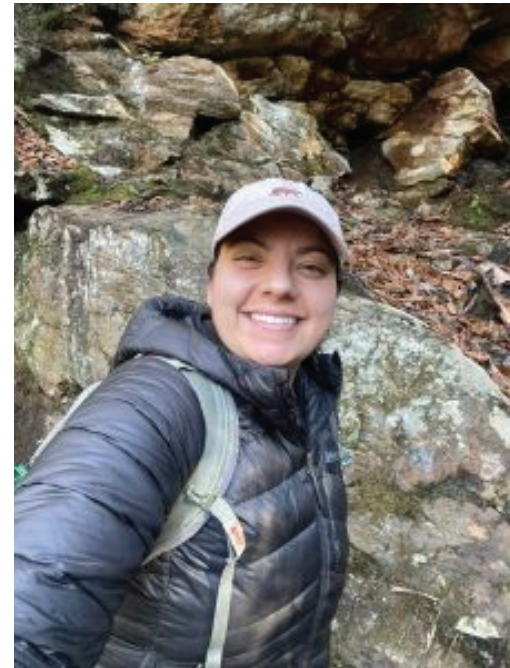
Weaverville Garden Club

ENVS News

Student Spotlight

Nicole Mooradian ('25)

Nicole graduated this spring with a concentration on Ecology. During her time in our department, she took most of our field classes, conducted undergraduate research, and finished a McCullough Fellowship. For the fellowship, she spent her summers in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park conducting avian count surveys to constrain the impact of hemlock decline on avian populations. She is now off to graduate school at NC State. Congratulations Nicole!



Alumni Spotlight

Hans Lohmeyer ('14)

After graduating, Hans served two terms with AmeriCorp in collaboration with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Afterward, he returned to North Carolina and earned a M.S. in Biology from Appalachian State University. His graduate studies focused on sequencing native freshwater mussel DNA. He held a position with the NC Wildlife Resource Commission and is now the Stewardship Coordinator for Conserving Carolina, a land trust serving Henderson, Transylvania, Polk, and Rutherford Counties, and the Landrum, S.C. area. He lives in Asheville with his wife (also an ENVS alum!) and two beautiful daughters. Most recently he has been working to conserve two federally protected mussel species, the Appalachian Elktoe and the Long-Solid Mussel, in the Little River of Transylvania County following post-Helene damages.



Photo courtesy of Conserving Carolina

Alumni: We would love to hear from you!
Send pictures and updates to envs@unca.edu