



# ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES NEWSLETTER

FOR AND BY ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES STUDENTS AT  
KENT STATE UNIVERSITY



## READER SURVEY

*We want to hear from you!*

*Please scan the QR code below to complete a 1-minute survey.*

THANK YOU!



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Alumni Spotlight -  
Aiyanna Crawford [2]

Internship Spotlight -  
Logan Knobel [4]

Internship Spotlight -  
Emily Beach [5]

Nature's Classroom [6]

Want Your Dream  
Internship? [9]

Course Offerings [16]

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: AIYANNA CRAWFORD

by: Kathryn Burns

Aiyanna's love for environmental science started back in seventh grade, through a program in Northern Pennsylvania called Creek Connections (<https://sites.allegheny.edu/creekconnections/>). Creek Connections is a partnership between Allegheny College and K-12 schools, and it fosters a strong foundation for environmental education on the French Creek Watershed.

Aiyanna knew she wanted to study environmental science. She came to Kent in the Fall of 2016 and Kent State did not offer an environmental studies degree. Aiyanna became interested in environmental geography, and at the end of her freshman year, she communicated with Professor David Kaplan about the creation of the Environmental Studies program. In 2020, she was part of the first class to graduate from KSU with an Environmental Studies degree (she also has a minor in business and geography).

During her time at Kent State, Aiyanna was very involved as a track and field athlete for the first two years. She was also a member of the Dean Student Advisory Board (as a representative for the Environmental Geography and Environmental Studies programs), and was a part of Alpha Lambda Delta. When serving on the Dean's Students Advisory Board, she stressed to potential incoming students that they should get to know what they wanted to do before college to help them save time, money, and effort. Doing things like job shadowing and researching job titles prior to entering college maximizes potential to gear classes toward a specific career path.

Aiyanna is still in communication with her former classmates and noted that a unique and powerful part of the Environmental Studies program is its ability to connect students, calling them "a family" of sorts.



Aiyanna was determined to graduate with departmental honors, so she completed an honor senior thesis, which provided her with the opportunity to study in Ireland. Aiyanna benefited from her overseas experience, stating that it helped improve her self-confidence, and her time management skills, and helped develop her areas of interest.

Aiyanna graduated in May of 2020 at the beginning of the COVID pandemic and faced barriers to finding a job. She commented that many students felt invalidated for all their hard work. Aiyanna persevered and did not stop looking. She began networking heavily with potential employers, got her name out there, and kept an open dialogue.

Aiyanna's first job with FedEx was working as a Linehaul Specialist. She worked to coordinate moves using the rail network. She worked on a variety of projects that allowed her to use different skills that she learned from her degree and classes. Currently, Aiyanna works as a Sustainability Specialist at FedEx Ground. She “wears two hats” by collecting data on the company’s CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and working to integrate sustainability benchmarks. FedEx’s goal is to be carbon neutral by 2040, so she reports data on emissions. The data is then used to report to the shareholders about progress on the company’s sustainability goals. Integrating sustainability benchmarks is a large part of the role, and she now spearheads an engagement program across the FedEx Ground network to incorporate sustainable actions and emission reductions.



Aiyanna advises students to study abroad and apply for funding often. She said that her overseas experience was one of the most enriching opportunities of her life. Aiyanna said that students should “*get comfortable with the unknown*” and “*approach the unknown willingly*”. She also recommends students find a minor complementary to their area.



**"IN THEIR OWN WORDS..."**

## **INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT: LOGAN KNOEBEL**

*by: Logan Knoebel*

This summer, I had an amazing opportunity to work for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Michael J. Kirwan Dam and Reservoir (also known as West Branch Reservoir).

During this twelve-week internship experience, I was able to gain valuable knowledge and practical skills in park management fields, while also learning the Corp's regulations and guidelines. Throughout the internship, I aided in the remodeling of a new conference room in our ranger station, where we would later host dam safety training and emergency preparedness training for local authorities and first responders. I also helped run machinery and pour concrete in order to construct a new outdoor exercise facility for park visitors to use.

Finally, through the entirety of this experience, I reinforced the main priorities of the Corp, which were to promote and enforce aspects of water safety, as well as education on flood control/management and environmental stewardship. This job required a lot of hard work and sore muscles, but it was well worth it in the end!





"IN THEIR OWN WORDS..."

## INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT: EMILY BEACH

by: *Emily Beach*

This past Summer I was an intern at Cuyahoga Valley National Park. I was able to help mostly in the Community Engagement department, but there were a couple of times that I also was able to help other departments by working at the visitors center helping guests plan their visit, recommending trails, and answering questions about the Park and its history.

During my time with Community Engagement, we did a lot of programs with kids that I got to participate in, like taking them for hikes and then bringing them back to a shelter for games and lunch, there was also one that I was able to go to community centers to help give educational programs. My favorite thing though, was when we took pop-ups (compact educational programs) to some of the trailheads to talk about different things like the wildlife and the history of the park. It was a long summer but it was a lot of fun interacting with visitors at the park and my fellow interns were awesome too.



# "IN THEIR OWN WORDS..."

## NATURE'S CLASSROOM

*by: Phillip Kimbrough*

Hello everyone, my name is Phillip Kimbrough, and I'm currently a sophomore in the ENVS program at Kent's Stark campus. As a child, my idea of a good time was exploring the woods to see how far I could make it before I had to find my way home for dinner. I enjoyed operating the unknown, where the outcomes of success or failure landed squarely on me. It filled me with wonder, reinforced by my sense of play, and showed me that the natural world is to be regarded with the utmost respect.



I've continued to directly connect to nature in my adult life, and it's drawn me further into the backcountry. Since 2018, I have hiked over 10,000 miles in America's most mountainous regions. I've managed my yearly schedule so that if I'm not here in Ohio going to class and training, then I'm in the mountains living deliberately while I hike the country. I live on the ground for months at a time immersing myself in nature, which I believe to be a different type of classroom. A classroom with all sorts of insight provided through experiential learning.





Being out on a hike for months on end gives you quite a bit of time to occupy yourself. One thing I look to that keeps me engaged is identifying mushrooms. I've come across many different species since I began hiking, and it's my intention to share a little bit of what I have learned.

In the spirit of the fall season, I thought I would share a few pictures I took right here in northeastern Ohio, a cluster of Jack-O-Lantern mushrooms. My friend Chance, my wife Megan, and I were on a hike in a local deciduous forest and came across these beauties.



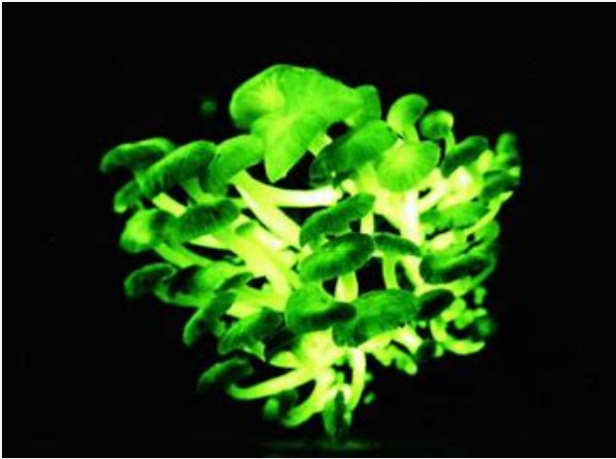
The Jack-O'Lantern mushroom, or False Chanterelle, can be found growing on decaying hardwood, helping break down decaying material, which aids in the recycling of the forest floor.

However, unlike the edible Chanterelle, these mushrooms are toxic. They can cause problems including profuse sweating and should be avoided when considering your next meal.





They like to appear in the fall season and are a vibrant shade of orange, but even more interesting, the glow in the dark! Unfortunately, I didn't get to come back at night and take a picture of this particular cluster in the dark, so I included a picture of some Jack-O'Lantern expressing bioluminescence.



*This image is from Captain Tarek Dream's blog post on "Unraveling the Origins of Bioluminescent Fungi"*

This fungus gets its ability to glow from an enzyme located within the gills of the mushroom cap called *Luciferase*. Scientists aren't sure exactly why this particular fungus glows, but one interesting theory is, it attracts nocturnal insects to it in hopes of spreading its spores. Another possible use is to provide a warning to anything that may want to consume it.

Scientists have been studying organisms like this fungi throughout history, and their efforts have resulted in creating new technologies. For example, in the biomedical field, they can utilize bioluminescence to illuminate the progression of cancer cells in the brain, which aids them greatly in their care for the patient. The forests here in Ohio, as well as the world, contain a lot of diverse species like the Jack-O'Lantern mushroom. If we take time to notice and develop our understanding of how these organisms express life, they can help us create a better future for all life on our planet.

Thank you for letting me share, and have a wonderful holiday season.



# WANT TO LAND YOUR DREAM INTERNSHIP?

by: Kathryn Burns

Get your resumes ready because internships for summer 2023 are starting to open up with some deadlines quickly approaching!

This article provides students with resources about internship opportunities. There are several types of internships such as full-time, part-time, government, private sector, or non-profit, just to name a few. Time and dedication is something required to land your dream internship, but do not give up hope! If you get rejected it is not the end, because most of these applications are competitive.

Best of luck to everyone applying. The Environmental Studies Newsletter looks forward to hearing about your experiences!



If you are interested in working somewhere like the EPA, create a USAJobs account. Most, if not all, governmental agencies use USAJobs for postings, including the EPA.

Use the student filter to find jobs that are open to students. While there are not many local job postings currently available with the EPA, there are some in other states. For example, there is a position as Student Trainee for Environmental Protection in Denver, Colorado.

See screenshot below to show that applications have a set amount of dates. These jobs are typically competitive, so some internships like this one will close applications after a certain amount even if the application dates are still open. To access USAJobs use: [USAJOBS - The Federal Government's official employment site](#)

Summary

This job is open to

Duties

Requirements

How you will be evaluated

Required documents

Help

## Student Trainee (Environmental Protection)

[Environmental Protection Agency](#)  
EPA

### Summary

This position is in Region 8. If selected, you must work at the location stated in this announcement.

About Region 8: <https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-8-mountains-and-plains>

Salary will be based on the grade level for which you are selected.

[Learn more about this agency](#)

### Overview

**Accepting applications**

**Open & closing dates**  
🕒 10/18/2022 to 10/31/2022

This job will close when we have received **200 applications** which may be sooner than the closing date.  
[Learn more](#)

**Salary**  
\$31,703 - \$46,265 per year

**Pay scale & grade**  
GS 03 - 04

**Location**  
📍 **Denver, CO**  
Many vacancies

**Remote job**  
No

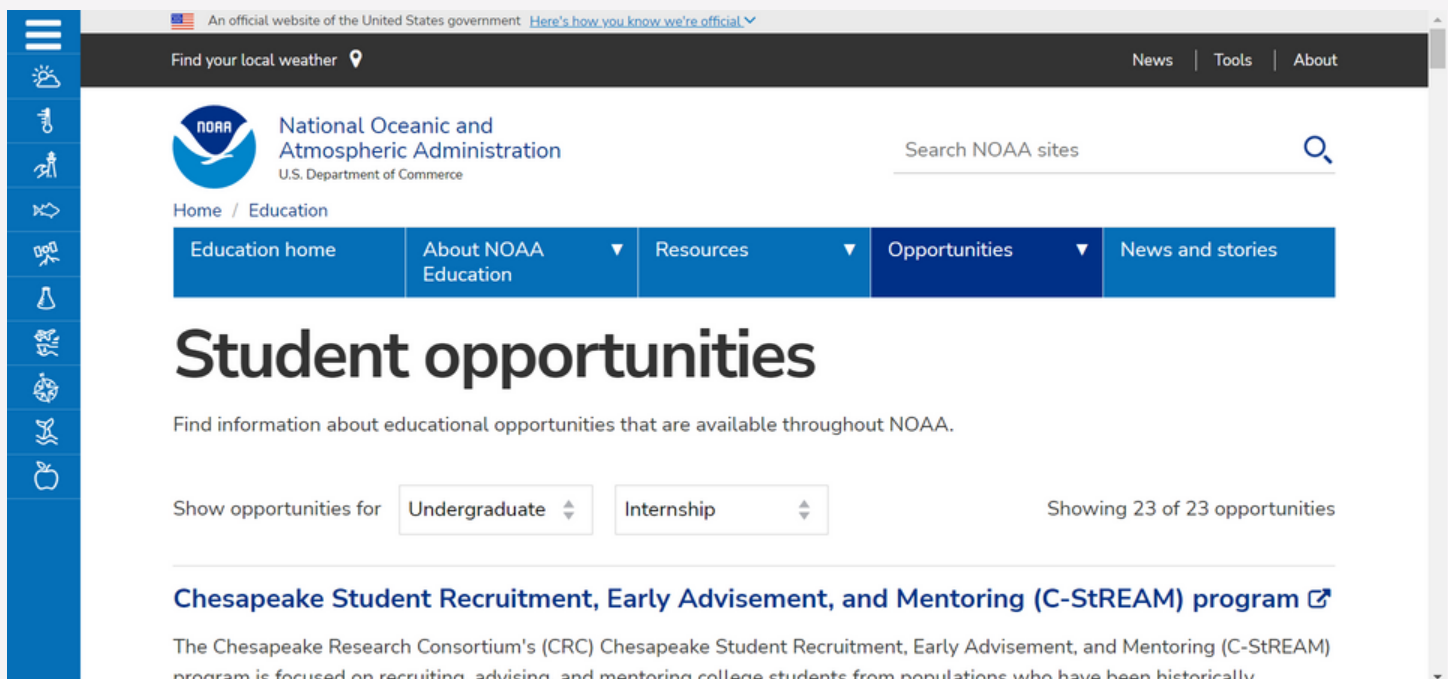


## **NOAA** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has a website to search for internship opportunities. After reviewing some of the listings it looks like most of the applications open in December and the decisions come back in February depending on the type of internship you are looking for.

Keep looking regularly to see if there are any updates or new positions added to maximize this resource. If you are interested in looking at the website the link is:

<https://www.noaa.gov/education/opportunities/students>



The screenshot shows the NOAA website's 'Student opportunities' page. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Find your local weather', 'News', 'Tools', and 'About'. Below this is the NOAA logo and the text 'National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce'. A search bar for 'Search NOAA sites' is on the right. The main navigation menu includes 'Education home', 'About NOAA Education', 'Resources', 'Opportunities', and 'News and stories'. The 'Opportunities' section is highlighted. The page title is 'Student opportunities', followed by the subtitle 'Find information about educational opportunities that are available throughout NOAA.' Below this, there are filters for 'Show opportunities for' with dropdowns for 'Undergraduate' and 'Internship'. It indicates 'Showing 23 of 23 opportunities'. The first listing is for the 'Chesapeake Student Recruitment, Early Advisement, and Mentoring (C-StREAM) program', which includes a brief description of the program's focus on recruiting, advising, and mentoring college students from historically underserved populations.



***Park guides – November 7-11***

Guides help visitors appreciate and enjoy the public lands entrusted to the NPS. Guides are first-line representatives who welcome visitors of all ages and backgrounds, answer questions, and conduct engaging and interactive programs to educate the public about significant features at a variety of sites.

***Park ranger (Interpretation) – November 7-11***

Park Rangers plan and conduct engaging and interactive programs to educate visitors of all ages and backgrounds about historical, natural, or scientific treasures.

***Visitor services assistant – December 5-9***

The National Park Service (NPS) relies on a diverse team of dedicated Visitor Services Assistants to drive its mission forward every day. From greeting park visitors to assisting staff with a wide variety of tasks, there is no shortage of ways for assistants to make a difference!

*\*Student positions may vary from this timeline and depending on park location. We recommend checking USAjobs regularly.*



## **ODNR** *Ohio Division of Natural Resources*

The applications to work at ODNR are now open! Check out their website for information. On their "Intern with ODNR" page they have sections on which area of interest you are studying. You can either apply with their online form or a resume!

<https://ohiodnr.gov/buy-and-apply/support-odnr/odnr-intern>

## **Handshake**

Handshake is one of the best resources for students to find jobs or internships. Handshake has videos on Youtube on how to use their website, but if you use the search filters, you can really narrow your search. Use the Kent State University log-on to be notified of opportunities on campus as well. (Also, it is just easier to log in with your email address each time you log on). Handshake also has an app that you can download on your phone to access Handshake on the go.

<https://joinhandshake.com/>

## **Local Organizations Websites**

Some local nature centers, museums, and parks have their own website where they can post in employment, internship, or careers section. Take the time to look through their websites. If they do not have any listings there might be contact information that you can reach out to and ask for.





## ***College Job Boards***

Texas A&M (Rangeland, Wildlife, & Fisheries Management) has a natural resources job board of jobs and internship positions all across the United States. There's a section where you can browse by type, but this website offers a large range of opportunities.

### **Texas A&M University - Natural Resources Job Board**

<https://wfscjobs.tamu.edu/job-board/>

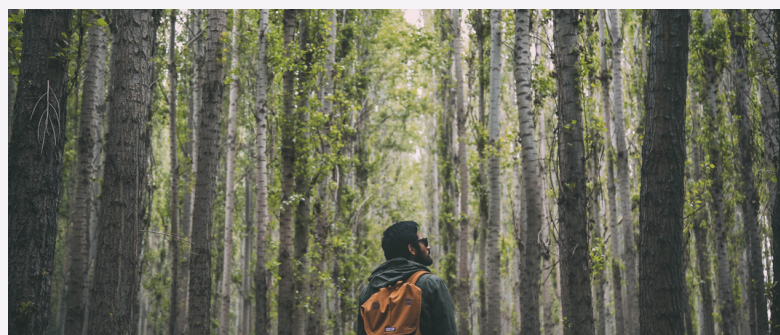
Cleveland State University also has a website for resources for Environmental Studies majors with links to organizations in Ohio and specifically northeast Ohio of different environmental organizations in the area.

### **Cleveland State University - Sustainability Resources**

<https://www.csuohio.edu/sustainability/resources-4>

## ***Job Search Websites***

Get active on LinkedIn or Indeed, because they are very easy to use. Refining your searches can be difficult because many careers require a hard science background. Search 'summer internship 2023' and 'environmental studies' to help narrow down the many options.



# COURSE OFFERINGS



Are you faculty or a chairperson  
interested in seeing your course here?  
Please email us.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND DESIGN COURSES

Kent / Environmental Science And Design Courses

To view prerequisites, credit hours, course descriptions, associated undergraduate attributes and other details, students should consult the [Course Catalog](#) and CIM (Curriculum Information Management) system. **They have the most up to date information** and supersede the details below.

To register for any course below, students should log in to [Flashline](#) > Look Up and Register for Courses. This list will be updated at the beginning of every academic year (i.e. summer term).

+ Special Topics courses

+ Permanent courses by environmental content type: focused

+ Permanent courses by environmental content type: inclusive

**Check out ESRI's Resources Page to find courses that pertain to Environmental Science and Design Courses!**

ESDRI, or Environmental Science and Design Research Institute, is a fellowship program at Kent State. They are compiling a list that has classes about environmental science and design.

If you are looking for courses that are outside of the Environmental Studies major, ESDRI courses are a great option.



**ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND  
DESIGN RESEARCH INSTITUTE**  
at Kent State University





# For more information, please contact:



**Dr. David Kaplan**

Director of  
Environmental Studies  
dkaplan@kent.edu



**Dr. Aimee Ward**

Assistant Professor in  
Geography  
award60@kent.edu



**Kathryn Burns**

Head Editor  
kburns35@kent.edu



**You may also visit the official program  
website for additional information:**

<https://www.kent.edu/geography/environmental-studies>

