



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

The Post-Scholarship Lives
of C.R. Meyers Recipients

Submitted at the OALPRP Summer Conference,
June 2016

Ian Hughes, 2003 Richland County

This is fantastic and what a trip thinking back to 2003! Thank you again to the OALPRP for the scholarship in memory of Mr. Meyers, and hopefully my education and subsequent career path would have made him proud that I was a recipient.

I graduated from Muskingum College (now Muskingum University!) in 2004 with a BS and a double major in Biology and Environmental Science. In 2006, I received an MS in Environmental Studies from Ohio University. As part of my Masters program I worked for the Institute for Local Government Administration and Rural Development supporting watershed studies and water quality projects in southeast Ohio.

In 2005 I was an intern at the Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water in Logan, supporting their awesome work with surface water quality, stream habitat quality, and stream biotic integrity. From 2006-2011, I worked as an environmental scientist for Tetra Tech, Inc. in Cleveland and Chicago, supporting a variety of projects including water quality reporting, soil and groundwater remediation, and bat/avian studies for wind energy development.

During 2011-2013, I worked for Goose Island Beer Company in Chicago as their Environmental and Safety Manager, driving safety and environmental regulatory compliance and growing sustainability programs.

In 2013 I became the Assistant Brewery Manager and Sustainability Projects Lead at Goose Island Beer Company. One of my projects is focusing on attaining zero waste to landfill at the brewery (we are currently at 99.3% landfill diversion rate), as well as doing the same at our public events! We also lead neighborhood and beach litter pickups several times per year.

I lead the company's Green Team, which strives to reduce our environmental footprint both inside and outside of our brewery walls! I also serve on the Brewers Association's Sustainability Subcommittee as well as on the Chicago Sustainability Task Force working towards a more sustainable industry and city!

I was featured in a Washington Post article on climate change in July 2014: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/storyline/wp/2014/07/23/the-man-who-wants-to-make-sure-climate-change-doesnt-ruin-your-beer/> I have lectured about the importance of clean water at Northwestern University, the Great Lakes Water Conservation Conference in Grand Rapids, Mich., and at South By Southwest in Austin, Texas.

Check out my Twitter feed, @HughesBrews.



Mickey Irwin, 2009

Ashland County



Thank you for reaching out to check in with me! I remember back in the summer of 2009, when I received the scholarship at the OALPRP conference in Van Wert. Everyone I met was so kind and friendly. I would again like to express my gratitude for the association's investment in my education.

In May 2013, I graduated from The Ohio State University with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Engineering. Since graduating, I have worked as a water resources engineer for Arcadis, an international civil and environmental engineering consulting firm. While working at Arcadis, I have worked on several water and wastewater treatment projects for Ohio municipalities.

Each year for the past seven years, I have volunteered to be a judge for the National Engineers Week Future City Competition, which is a competition in which middle school students compete to design a city of the future, and build a model of their city using recycled materials to present in front of a panel of judges. When I was in middle school, I competed in this competition. In 2015, I was named the Future City Competition National Alumni of the Year for my continued commitment to the program, and was a judge for the competition's national finals in Washington, D.C.

Audra Lewicki, 2002

Belmont County

Audra graduated from the College of Wooster with a bachelor's degree in international relations and political science in 2005. While at Wooster, she did research in South Africa on the effect of apartheid on the environment and in Cameron on culture and gender roles.

Since 2007, she has worked for the Chicago Board of Elections and is now the manager of the Community Services Division.

Audra also co-owns and founded Dirt Doll, an urban farm based in Chicago. She provides continuing education in small farm business practices, soil science and food safety in urban agriculture. Before starting Dirt Doll, Audra had volunteered or worked her own plot at several urban farms, including starting a rooftop farm at the Chicago Botanic Garden.



Chris Riddle, 2005

Wood County

Chris graduated with a BS in environmental studies from Bowling Green State University in May 2003, then went on to a master's in public administration from BGSU in May 2006. While at Bowling Green, he worked at the Sandusky River Watershed coalition, as a source water specialist and for three years as a watershed coordinator. Chris also was a founding member and treasurer of the BGSU Environmental Service Club.

From 2006-2010, Chris managed the grant program of the Ohio Lake Erie Commission. He then went to Ohio EPA's office in Bowling Green as a drinking water inspector, evaluating systems ranging from migrant labor camps serving a few dozen people to municipal treatment plants serving thousands. He sampled raw and finished water supplies during the 2010 harmful algal bloom on Lake Erie.

In March 2013 he became a water quality specialist for Ohio EPA, working with an interdisciplinary agency team to develop and implement water quality studies. His duties include water sampling at wastewater treatment plants, inland lakes and reservoirs, and Lake Erie's western basin.

From 2004-2010, Chris served on the board of Nature's Nursery, a wildlife rehabilitation and conservation education center, including a term as board president in 2008-09.

His other professional activities include a stint in 2003 as coordinator of volunteers for Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Bald Eagle Program and from 2004-06 as a field experience instructor to Yellowstone National Park and Algonquin Park of Canada.



Rhiannon Cook, 2006

Wayne County

Rhiannon graduated magna cum laude from the University of Pittsburgh in 2009 with a B.A. in environmental studies and communications & rhetoric, with a certificate in global studies focused on Latin America. She studied abroad in Costa Rica and did research on the effect of agriculture in small towns on biodiversity of riparian zones. In 2008 she received the Jennifer and Eric Spiegel Award, given annually to one communications undergraduate student. Applicants had to submit an essay on communications and technology.

Rhiannon has pursued a career in digital marketing, working for firms in Tempe, Arizona, and Pittsburgh. She currently is a digital media planner/buyer for Chemistry Communications in Pittsburgh. Her areas of expertise include analytical planning, brand development, and the cultivation of long-term client relationships.

Rhiannon serves on the board of the Pittsburgh chapter of the New Leaders Council as the communications chair. The council provides free leadership training to young progressives interested in elevating their communities, getting involved in cause-based advocacy, or running for office. The organization has a large stewardship focus and has trained some amazing environmentalists and advocates for a better world.



Rhiannon also is a member of the Phipps Conservatory Biophilia network, which works to make the city of Pittsburgh a certified Biophilic city and connect more people to nature in their day to day lives. Biophilia: Pittsburgh is the pilot chapter for a global Biophilia Network of creative minds dedicated to strengthening the bond between people and the natural world through education, discussion and action.

Rhiannon uses her marketing and advertising skills to be an advocate for alternative public health, particularly among disadvantaged and minority communities. She has a consulting service that helps worthy people, organizations, and businesses to communicate their messages and to encourage interaction among their audiences.

Levente Szentkiralyi, 2006 Wood County

Levente Szentkiralyi completed a dual BS/BA in Environmental Science and in Political Science and Philosophy at Bowling Green State University in December 2006. He subsequently earned master's degrees in philosophy at the University of Connecticut and in political science at the University of Colorado at Boulder. He is expected to receive his Ph.D. in political science in the fall of 2016 from UC-Boulder.

Lev's dissertation, "The Ethics of Precaution: Taking Responsibility for Uncertain Threats of Environmental Harm," addresses the question of whether to regulate actions that create uncertain threats of environmental harm to public health. Some insist that any probability of severe harm justifies regulations, while others argue that action should not be taken until sufficient evidence establishes a strong probability of severe harm. His dissertation overcomes this impasse by shifting the focus from how to manage uncertainty to what it is we owe each other morally. He argues that actions that create uncertain threats wrongfully gamble with the welfare of those who are exposed.

Lev's interest in political morality was inspired by his parents' struggles with war and political persecution in their native Hungary. His mother endured bombing campaigns in Budapest during World War II before coming to the U.S. in 1951. His father also lived through the war, and participated in the 1956 uprising against the Soviet Union. He was captured and beaten by Soviet forces. Because he was younger than 18, he was released and managed to flee Hungary and eventually make his way to the U.S.



In learning the sobering details of his parents' histories, and how they and various relatives were impacted by decisions of state actors, Lev became keenly interested in subjects of political morality—inspiring his commitment to the study of political theory and international relations.

Motivating his other research interests in environmental political theory, and environmental policy and law, Levente remains a devoted environmentalist. He has invested more than 1,600 hours of service in a number of environmental protection, wilderness conservation, and backcountry trail restoration projects, and various environmental education initiatives—having worked with such organizations as the Student Conservation Association, U.S. Forest Service, Nature Conservancy, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Kaley Core, 2011 Allen County

Thank you to OAPRP for selecting me as a recipient of the Meyers Scholarship. Scholarships make a world of difference to a college student.

I graduated from The Ohio State University in May 2015 with a degree in Food, Agricultural, and Biological Engineering. While at OSU, I was a mentor for first year female engineering students, did research in utilizing high pressure to process heat sensitive food products, served as the president of the student branch of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers, and was a teaching assistant for an engineering class for FABE majors.

One of the highlights of my time at OSU was participating in a Humanitarian Engineering Study Abroad program in which our group of engineering students designed a rainwater collection and filtration system. We then traveled to Cholotepec, Honduras where we built the system, tested water samples, and educated the people about sanitation and hygiene.

While at OSU, I was honored that my classmates selected me to receive the Joel T. Walker Award. Dr. Walker believed in challenging students by giving them problems for which they are not adequately prepared. That challenge leads to a need and desire for new knowledge. My team's project focused on detecting nozzle blockage in agricultural sprayers.



Since 2011, I have had four internships. I worked for Materials Testing Inc., an engineering firm during the summers of 2011 and 2012. I spent the summers of 2013 and 2014 at Hirzel Canning Company in Ottawa, Ohio. Hirzel Canning Co. is a tomato processing company that packages tomatoes into cans and does bulk aseptic processing. I joined Hirzel full time the week after graduation in May 2015 and have been working there ever since. I work as a Process Engineer for corporate, meaning I have projects across all of our four facilities in northwest Ohio. Right now, I am the lead engineer on a project to upgrade the Programmable Logic Controller system.

I serve on the Allen County Farm Bureau Board, the Allen County 4-H Council, and on the Alumni Society Board for the Ohio State College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. I also volunteer as a coach for the Spencerville High School FFA Agricultural Engineering team, as an advisor for the Blue Ribbon Bearcats 4-H Club, and as an adult counselor for Allen County 4-H Camp.

Thank you for helping to make all of this possible. I would not have been able to accomplish all of this without help from generous organizations like the Ohio Association of Litter Prevention and Recycling Professionals.

Grace Poling, 2012

Hardin County

Grace Poling graduated in 2015 from The Ohio State University with a degree in Environmental Science. While in school she worked at the Ohio Bioproducts Innovation Center (OBIC) as a student helper. OBIC is a nonprofit company focused on linking research to industry to generate sustainable products for industrial needs.

Before graduating Grace worked as a summer environmental intern for Marathon Petroleum Company in Findlay, Ohio, and Texas City, Texas. After graduation, she was offered a job at Marathon as an Environmental Professional in Garyville, Louisiana. With Marathon, she deals with environmental regulations and industry standards on a regular basis. One of Marathon's core values is environmental stewardship, so working for this company has allowed Grace to uphold her own values as an environmentalist.

Outside of work, Grace is a member of the Air & Waste Management Association in Louisiana. She is proud to be a buckeye alumni in SEC country.



Charlotte Shade, 2015

Montgomery County



I am a junior biology major, sustainability minor at the University of Dayton. I currently work as a lab technician in an ecological lab at UD studying invasive honeysuckle in relation to stream ecology.

This summer I will be working at Dauphin Island Sea Lab, a marine biological station off the coast of Alabama. I continue to be involved in a plethora of environmental work through UD's Sustainability Club, Student Government, and River Steward Program.

In 2015, I worked on community education outreach as an intern at the Montgomery County Solid Waste District.