

MEET THE 2017-18 ESF SCIENCE CORPS eCybermission Mentors



SARAH K CALTABIANO

PhD Student, Environmental and Forest Biology

Hometown: New York City

Biography:

Sarah K Caltabiano is a plant physiologist with a specialty in horticultural applications, plant health diagnostics, and nitrogen cycling. In her spare time she can often be found hugging trees and walking around forests. Her educational experience stems from a bachelor's degree in horticulture and a master's degree in environmental technology. She is currently a PhD student at SUNY ESF under advisement of Lee Newman, researching hyperspectral imaging of trees contaminated with TCE.



THOMAS MACKEY

PhD Candidate, Environmental Interpretation

Hometown:

Biography:

Tommy is a PhD. candidate in environmental interpretation and a secondary school teacher by trade. Prior to studying at ESF, he taught 8th grade science for the Syracuse City School District, high school equivalency in Boston, and high school science for Boston Public Schools. In summertime, he runs a wilderness education program for a youth development non-profit in NYC. His interests lie in land education and cultural perspectives of environmentalism. Tommy plans on returning to teaching upon completion of his doctorate.

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JOSEPH NASTA

Masters Candidate, Environmental Biology

Hometown: Long Island, NY

Biography:

My name is Joseph Nasta, I am a Master's Student at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. I am a New York native, born and raised in Suffolk County, Long Island. My academic studies focus on Microbial Evolution in response to various organic and inorganic pollutants. When not in my office, you can catch me around campus participating in the Syracuse University Swing Dance Club, where I serve as a mentor to encourage fun social interactions between peers. My

hobbies include writing, dance, hiking, and reading, and an insatiable pursuit of curiosity. If you see me around, feel free to stop and say hello!



MARISSA NOLAN

Masters Candidate, Environmental Interpretation

Hometown:

Biography:

I am a master's candidate at ESF in Environmental Interpretation. My study is on how science camps affect kids' environmental literacy. I first engaged in environmental education during my time in Guinea with the Peace Corps. However, I have always loved learning about and explaining how amazing nature is.

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LEANNE SAMPSON

Senior in Environmental Education & Interpretation

Hometown: Syracuse, NY

Biography:

I am currently a senior at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry studying Environmental Education and Interpretation. I intend on pursuing a Master's degree in biology education. My interests lie in birding, hiking, and spending time with my dog



JASON TONER

Science Teacher, Expeditionary Learning Middle School

Hometown: Salamanca, NY

Biography:

I grew up in Salamanca, a small western New York town on the Allegheny River. My first experiences in education, and the hook for education for me, was as a naturalist in Allegany State Park where I was responsible for a variety of activities involving teaching the general public about the natural world. I started college at Paul Smith's College in 1992 as an Ecology and Environmental Technology major and graduated with an Associate in Applied Science in 1994. I then transferred to Cornell University as a Natural Resource major in 1995 (with a concentration in fisheries and aquatic science). After graduating from Cornell with a Bachelor of Science I continued to work for Cornell's Ecology and Systematics department as a research technician at the Cornell Experimental Ponds doing aquatic plant and macroinvertebrate research on local lakes with Robert L. Johnson. I continued working with Cornell until I enrolled as a graduate student at SUNY ESF in 2000. While at ESF I had the opportunity to work on a long-term international water level study with the International Joint Commission on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River under Dr. Farrell and Dr. Leopold. I completed the graduate program at ESF as a research support specialist in 2006 when I obtained my Master of Science. While completing the thesis writing requirements I enrolled as a part-time graduate student at Le Moyne College to pursue a science teaching career. In 2007, I graduated from Le Moyne with a Master of Science for Teachers and got my first teaching position at Nottingham High School in the Syracuse City School District teaching Living Environment and Environmental Science. After three years in high school I transferred to the Expeditionary Learning Middle School (ELMS), also a Syracuse City School, where I currently reside.

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I continue to work summers with Robert Johnson in Ithaca conducting aquatic plant surveys, so I get to teach science as well as being part of the scientific process. Other positions I have had throughout the years include: being a tutor while at Paul Smith's College, work study at Cornell with the Lab of Ornithology and REM facility, a muskrat/cattail specialist with a NEA consulting firm, and a fisheries technician at the USGS in Oswego.

Although my education and work experiences have consumed much of my time, I have somehow managed to balance this with my family life. I have been married for almost twenty years, have four children (one is a junior at Morrisville studying Renewable Energy Technologies, the other three are 10, 8, and 3 years old). I owe a lot to my wife who has "managed" this family throughout our time together and has accepted the many changes that I have imposed. I enjoy spending as much time outdoors as I can with my family doing things like camping, hiking, fishing, hunting, biking, and cross country skiing.