

# ALUMNI CONNECTION

SPRING | 2014



Boot Camp. Page 2.  
Scarlet, Gray & Green. Page 2.  
Alumni Highlight. Page 3.  
Tailgating. Page 3.  
Recognition Banquet. Page 4  
Earth Day. Page 4.  
Remembering Dambach. Page 5.  
Graduation Reception. Page 5.  
Hanna at EPN Breakfast. Page 6.

## Award Presented for Excellence

A popular SENR professor was recognized for teaching excellence this past semester. Interim President Joseph A. Alutto awarded our very own **Dr. Mazeika Sullivan** with the Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching.

Dr. Sullivan is responsible for teaching several different ENR classes, in addition to serving as an advisor to both undergraduate and graduate students. He does all of this on top of working on his own research involving aquatic-riparian ecosystems!

[Read about Dr. Sullivan's teaching and research.](#)



# The 2014 SENR Career Boot Camp

On Tuesday, January 21st, the School of Environment and Natural Resources Alumni Society and the SENR Coalition of Student Organizations hosted a career boot camp at the Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center. Even in the below freezing temperatures we had many students and alumni excited to participate in the event.

The night began with refreshment and networking opportunities that allowed for both alumni and current students to get to know each other before the night's festivities officially began. The next part of the evening consisted of a panel question and answer session, followed by small group discussions in which the attendees and alumni were then broken into groups based on their career goals and interests.

The Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Mike McNutt who graduated with his bachelor's degree from SENR in 1993 and did an exceptional job leading us throughout the evening. Our panelists for the Q&A session included alumni Jessica Dicerbo (2012) a policy analyst at Bioformix, Mark Dilley (1991) with MAD Scientist and Associates, Ariel Miller (2013) with the AmeriCorps/Ohio Food Bank, Doug Vineyard (1994) with the City of Westerville Parks and Recreation, and Ric Queen (1979) with Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Group discussion leaders included: Josh Kubitz (2012), Brent Macolley (2012), Nicole Jackson (2011), Danielle Ross (2001), April Kasun (2012), Meghan Harley (2011), and Craig Seeds (1985).

This event would not have been possible without our outstanding alumni who generously volunteered their time. We would like to thank everyone who helped make this event a success.



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# The 2014 Scarlet, Gray & Green Award



Every year the Scarlet, Gray & Green Student Leadership Award is given at The Ohio State University to an individual who has shown extensive leadership in furthering sustainability efforts in and around campus. This year the award, sponsored by the Office of Student Life's Energy Management & Sustainability, was presented to **Tricia Evans**.

Ms. Evans graduated this May. During her undergraduate career she studied Environmental Policy and Decision Making and was very active in sustainability student organizations throughout campus. She served as president of Students for Recycling. Through this organization she coordinated the annual Dump and Run event that allows students to find and reuse gently used items. Tricia was also involved with the formation of the Ohio State Sustainability Council.

## Update Your Alumni Information

We like to keep our information as up to date as possible when it comes to our alumni. Please take a second to follow the link below to give us your most current information, that way we can keep you up to date with all things happening in the School of Environment and Natural Resources.

<http://ohiostatealumni.org/yourcontactinfo/Pages/default.aspx>

# Alumni Highlight

## Nicole Jackson



**Nicole Jackson** received her Bachelor of Science degree in Autumn 2011. She majored in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism. In addition to her studies, she was involved in the Pre-Vet Club, Shades of Animal Science, Zoology Club, and the Parks and Recreation Society. After

graduation, Nicole was employed as a camp counselor at the Scioto Audubon MetroPark, which catapulted her into a passionate career in environmental education. After Scioto Audubon, she worked as a program leader for After School All-Stars Ohio, a rock climbing instructor for Vertical Adventures, an adventure naturalist for 4-H Camp of Ohio, and a camp assistant for the Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Garden. This final seasonal job later turned into a full time position as an educator that she still holds today. Her duties include creating, planning, and implementing school programs for grades pre K-12, managing interns, and coordinating camps.

Currently, Nicole serves on the SENR Alumni Society Executive Committee, is a professional member of the National Association for Interpretation, and the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE). She is also a natural leader for the Children & Nature Network, which promotes children playing, learning, and growing with nature in their everyday lives.

Nicole has been selected to be part of the 2014 Outdoor Afro Leadership Team. The mission of this team is to get people of color more connected with nature. This year 15 new members were selected from major cities across the U.S. including Ohio, which has been chosen for the first time since the team was created in 2009. We would like to extend a most heartfelt congratulation to Nicole for this distinguished honor. She has proven herself to have a very bright future in the field of environmental education. She says inspiration during her undergraduate career could be contributed in part to a class she took taught by Sue Rasche.

Nicole resides in Columbus. Her hobbies include birding, hiking, and binge-watching educational programming such as National Geographic and PBS.

## Tailgating and OSU Hockey

On Saturday, February 1st, SENRAS participated in The Ohio State Alumni Association's 6th Annual Alumni Society Hockey Event. This event consisted of a tailgate at the Longaberger Alumni House, with entertainment provided by the Ohio State cheerleaders. After the tailgate, alumni and friends were able to attend the Ohio State versus Penn State Men's Hockey Game.

We had a great turn out for this event. it was a great opportunity to socialize with fellow alumni and enjoy some great OSU Hockey. Ohio State beat Penn State in an exciting battle 5 to 2.

**GO BUCKS!**



*like us on*



# 61st Annual CFAES Recognition Banquet

On Thursday, April 17th, the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences came together in the Archie M. Griffith Grand Ballroom of the Ohio Union to recognize achievements within the college. The theme of the evening was "We Own the Night," a theme that SENR took literally taking home several distinguished awards.



(l-r) Matheus DeNardo and Clair Bullock

Every year twenty of the most outstanding seniors are recognized within the college for their exceptional achievements during their undergraduate careers. This year two graduating seniors from SENR were recognized. **Clair Bullock**, an Environmental Policy and Decision Making major, and **Matheus DeNardo**, a Natural Resource Management major, were both recognized for their hard work. In addition to heavy course loads, both graduates served on several different student organizations, completed research projects, and represented SENR as Student Ambassadors. Clair plans on attending law school at The Ohio State University in the fall, and Matheus is also planning on continuing his education at OSU by seeking a Master's degree from SENR. We can certainly expect great things from both of these new SENR alumni!

Another graduating senior recognized at the event was **Rachel Hefflinger**. Rachel majored in Forestry, Fisheries, and Wildlife during her undergraduate studies and received the Lee Johnston Scholarship Award given by the SENR Alumni Society. Rachel is a dedicated and hard-working volunteer and advocate for the School and SENRAS, assisting in a variety of ways to promote the SENR.



(l-r) Matt Perry, SENRAS President, and Rachel Hefflinger



Renee Johnston

**Renee Johnston**, academic program manager with SENR, received the Outstanding Service to Students award for her dedication to helping undergraduate students. Renee works tirelessly to ensure that students are able to hit the ground running (as they say) their very first semester here at OSU. However, her commitment does not end there. She also serves as an advisor to several student organizations, helps coordinate various projects and events for students in SENR, and always makes time to help out a struggling student. Renee was nominated not by one, but rather, three separate individuals who wanted to see her receive this award!

Another big winner for the evening was **Dr. Brian Lower**, who was presented with the distinguished Rodney F. Plimpton Outstanding Teacher Award for his outstanding reinvention on iTunes U of the introductory course ENR 2100: *Intro to Environmental Science*. Under Dr. Lower's leadership ENR 2100 became popular not only within CFAES but also throughout the entire university. His teaching style empowers students to seek out their own answers to environmental problems, and inspires them to become passionate about the environment. His class features a large symposium (held at The Ohio Union) in which students present on any environmental topic of their choosing. This has quickly become a favorite event of both his students and people around the university who are passionate about the environment.



Dr. Brian Lower

It was a beautiful evening in which the School of Environment and Natural Resources was well represented at the night's festivities. Congratulations to all of the night's award recipients.

## Earth Day 2014

As many of you know Earth Day falls on April 22nd every year since it was first celebrated in 1970. However, at Ohio State Earth Day no longer represents a single day but an entire month of speakers, events, and green initiatives. If you are interested in seeing how Ohio State students celebrated this year, go to [earthday.osu.edu](http://earthday.osu.edu) for a full list of the events and details from 2014.

# Remembering Charles A. Dambach



The Ohio State University School of Environment and Natural Resources was created in July of 1968. Since that time, there have been seven directors whom have served the SENR, helping shape the school into what it is today. The very first director of SENR was Charles A. Dambach (1968-1969). Although he only served one year as director, he was instrumental in the conceptualization of the school and its mission.

Dr. Dambach received his PhD in entomology from Ohio State in 1945, and went on to serve with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources as the Chief of the Division of Wildlife and as a faculty member in the department of zoology at Ohio State. Then, in 1955, he became the director of the newly formed Natural Resources Institute at Ohio State. From 1955 to 1968, Dr. Dambach worked tirelessly to coordinate and expand the courses focused in natural resources that were already offered across the ten OSU departments at that time.

Under Dr. Dambach's leadership, the institute received a great deal of respect and visibility throughout the professional community in the state. Thanks to his concerted efforts the School of Natural Resources had a strong start. He orchestrated the initial development of instruction, research initiatives, and public service programs. One program in particular that helped to generate support and community input regarding the newly-formed School's operation was the establishment of the "Honorary 100." This was a group of citizens who were invested in the success of the School of Natural Resources.

Unfortunately, Dr. Dambach did not get to enjoy his tenure at The Ohio State University for very long due to his untimely death in October 1969. Without him, there is little doubt that the school's history would not be the same. Due to his commitment to the school's establishment, a bust of Dr. Dambach (commissioned by SENRAS) is on display in Kottman Hall 333A.



## 2014 SENR Graduation Reception

SENRAS joined faculty, staff, family and friends celebrate the graduation of students from the School of Environment and Natural Resources. Awards for the students' achievements were presented by Interim Director, Jeff Sharp, and various members of SENRAS. The reception was held Friday, May 2nd, in Kottman Hall.

## Become a Sustaining Member

If you graduated with a degree from SENR, you automatically become a member of SENRAS. We encourage all of our SENR Alumni to become **Sustaining Members** of the Ohio State University Alumni Association (OSUAA). This gift will qualify you as an active member of SENRAS. As you become a sustaining member of the Ohio State Alumni Association, we hope you will consider designating a portion of your annual giving towards funds that will directly benefit the students and programs of the School of Environment and Natural Resources. We have created a list of **SENR Giving Programs** on the SENRAS Alumni webpage to help better direct your gift towards SENR. Your gift to university can be made as a tax deductible donation. Please consider becoming a SENRAS Sustaining Member.

**GIVE TODAY**

# Jack Hanna at the EPN Breakfast

The Environmental Professionals Network (EPN) is a free service provided by the School of Environment and Natural Resources for environmental professionals as well as SENR students, alumni, and faculty. EPN offers both exciting networking opportunities for professionals and inspiring speakers in a once a month breakfast format.

This past April EPN was proud to host Jack Hanna as their special speaker. Jack was sure to bring along some of his wild friends, which thrilled the nearly 800 guests in attendance. This event was in collaboration with the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, One Million Actions, American Electrical Power, the Office of Energy and Efficiency, and the SENR Coalition of Student Organizations.

If you are interested in future EPN events check out their website [epn.osu.edu](http://epn.osu.edu).



## Important Dates/ Events

**Wednesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**SENRAS Cookout @ the**  
Wilma H. Schiermeier  
Olentangy River Wetland  
Research Park @ 5:30 PM

**Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**CFAES Fallfest @ The**  
Nationwide and Ohio Farm  
Bureau 4-H Center beginning  
at 11:30 AM followed by the  
Ohio State vs Rutgers Football  
Game @ 3:30 PM in the Shoe



 **THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
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