

## O'Meara wins CFAES Alumni Award

Congratulations to John O'Meara, who was recognized at this year's luncheon



**John O'Meara** was recognized with the College's Distinguished Alumni Award, which gives public recognition to those men and women who have brought distinction to themselves and to the college through their commitment and leadership. The awards luncheon was held March 4<sup>th</sup> at the Fawcett Event Center on the campus of The Ohio State University.

John earned a Bachelor of Science Degree (1978) and a Master's Degree (1983) from the School of Environment and Natural Resources at The Ohio State University.

The Environment and Natural Resources Alumni Society Executive Council nominated John for a superb record of distinguished career accomplishments and outstanding contributions to his profession over his 35 years working in natural resources and conservation.

For 16 years, John led the Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks serving as Executive Director. Under his leadership the Metro Parks more than doubled in both size and attendance and became the state's largest metro park system.

During his tenure as Executive Director, six parks opened, including Scioto Audubon Metro Park south of downtown Columbus. In 2012, the Metro Parks opened a \$6.4 million nature center at Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park where visitors can view bison grazing nearby.

Prior to being appointed as Director of Metro Parks, John served as Director of Geauga Park District. He also served as the Scenic River Coordinator for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. He has previous work experience as a naturalist for the Cleveland Metro Parks and taught natural resource conservation at a vocational high school as well.

In his retirement, John climbs mountains, spends time with his family and remains active with the school, college and university.



### Alumni Roadtrip. Page 2

by Molly Hardesty

### Become Sustaining. Page 2

by Mark Giese

### Distinguished Teaching. Page 3

by Molly Hardesty

### CFAES Banquet. Page 3

by Molly Hardesty

### Career Bootcamp. Page 4

by Molly Hardesty

### Student Leadership. Page 5

by Nicole Tabit

### REI's VP for Sustainability. Page 5

by Molly Bean

### Director Profile. Page 6

by Molly Hardesty

### Update Information. Page 6

by Mark Giese

### Graduation Reception. Page 7

by Molly Hardesty

This is a bi-annual publication of the Environment and Natural Resources Alumni Society (ENRAS).

# Alumni Roadtrip to Cleveland



On March 25<sup>th</sup>, a group of SENR alumni gathered at The Winking Lizard in Peninsula, Ohio. This event served as the Alumni Society's premier regional event to start hosting and promoting events outside of central Ohio.

A group of Columbus based alumni took a road trip up to Peninsula, where alumni from the greater Cleveland area joined them for a meet and greet at the local restaurant. Notable guests were Bert Szabo, Summit Metro Park ranger from 1957-1991, and Dr. Jeff Sharp, current director of SENR.

If you are from the Cleveland area and missed the event, keep a look out. ENRAS is hoping to launch future events in the Cleveland area. Events in Cincinnati and other major cities are in the works. If you are interested in helping ENRAS to launch events in your area email us at [ENRAS@osu.edu](mailto:ENRAS@osu.edu).



## Become a Sustaining Member

Alumni who renew their commitment to Ohio State each year by making tax-deductible gifts of \$75 or more to the university program(s) of their choice become Sustaining Members.

[www.osu.edu/alumni/membership/become-a-sustaining-member/](http://www.osu.edu/alumni/membership/become-a-sustaining-member/)

All ENR graduates are members of both the ENR Alumni Society and The Ohio State University Alumni Association.

### How can I join?

A Sustaining Member is an alumnus who donates \$75 annually to the Ohio State fund of their choice. Our sustaining member community supports the people, projects and priorities of the university and stays connected to Ohio State by making a difference. Gifts may be made to any area of Ohio State, including the Alumni Association, scholarships, Pelotonia, the Wexner Medical Center and more.

As an ENR Alumnus, we would like you to consider one of our ENR funds (listed below) that will directly benefit students.

FEATURED ENDOWMENT FUNDS AND OTHER ENDOWMENT AND GIFT FUNDS			
313978	School of Environment and Natural Resources Scholarship Fund	306591	The Ohio State Fund for the School of Environment and Natural Resources
600329	The Barnebey Family Scholarship Fund	605470	Olentangy River Wetland Research Park Program Endowment Fund
601755	John F. Disinger Endowment Fund	604840	Nikki Meifert Memorial Fund
606319	Elizabeth C. Sawtell Fund	607329	Triplett-Vandoren No-Tillage Fund
646815	T. Davis Sydnor Endowed Scholarship	664987	Fred P. Miller Fund
666375	Schiermeier Wetland Fund	647128	Dr. Robert W. Teater Endowed
302232	SNR Staff Support	308031	Shade Tree Evaluation
305921	Rural Sociology	309710	Wetlands Research
310207	Mitsch Memorial	314223	Youth Beat Radio
314160	Association of Ohio Pedologists Scholarship Fund	GIVE TODAY	

# Distinguished Teaching Recognized



Photo: Ohio State University

**Brian Lower**, associate professor in the School of Environment and Natural Resources, was presented with the Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching at the 2017 Faculty Awards program and reception held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Wexner Center for the Arts. The award honors faculty members at The Ohio State University for superior teaching.

Earlier in the semester on March 4<sup>th</sup>, Ohio State's Provost and Executive Vice President Bruce McPheron made a surprise visit to Dr. Lower's ENR 2100 class and announced Dr. Lower's selection as a recipient of the award. A video highlighting these surprise visits is available for viewing at [oaa.osu.edu/2017-faculty-award-winners](http://oaa.osu.edu/2017-faculty-award-winners), as well as biographies of each of the recipients of this prestigious award.

Recipients of the award are nominated by current or former students or faculty colleagues and are chosen by a committee of alumni, students and faculty. They receive a cash award, an increase in their base salaries and are inducted into the university's Academy of Teaching.

***Congratulations Dr. Lower!***

## CFAES Banquet Highlights

On Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) came together in the Archie M. Griffith Grand Ballroom of the Ohio Union to recognize achievements within the college.

Before the formal banquet kicked off a group of SENR alumni, staff and students met at Woody's Tavern in the Ohio Union. The group gathered for the chance to unwind after a day of work and prepare for the forthcoming banquet. We would like to thank everyone for coming out and mingling with us.

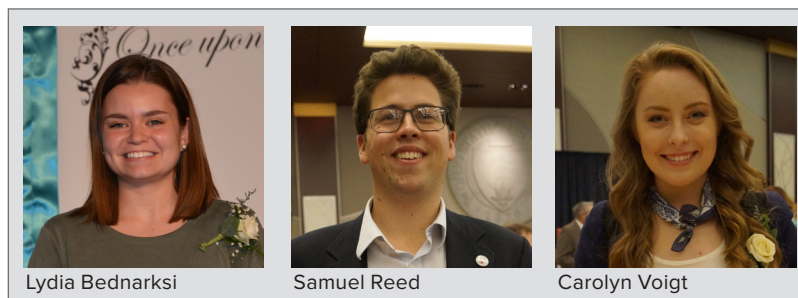
The ballroom was full for the banquet where students, faculty and groups were honored and recognized for their work. **Lauren Pintor**, SENR Assistant Professor of Aquatic Ecology, won the Rodney F. Plimpton Outstanding Teacher Award from the college. This award recognizes faculty who excel in teaching, both in and out of the classroom, and motivate their students in the learning process.



Lauren Pintor

Newcomb Scholars are the top CFAES students based on cumulative GPA. They are classified by rank with rank two being sophomores, rank three are juniors and rank four are seniors. There were 15 scholars from the CFAES and three were from the SENR. Our sophomore scholar was Environment, Economy, Development and Sustainability major **Dominique Provencher** from North Royalton, Ohio. The junior scholar was Environment, Economy, Development & Sustainability major **Cheryl Fladung** from Sommerset, Ohio; and the senior scholar was Environment, Economy, Development & Sustainability major **Mara Momenee** from Toledo, Ohio.

Outstanding Seniors are students in their final year of undergraduate education that exemplify high academic achievements, and involvement outside of school through job positions and internships. This year the SENR had three Outstanding Seniors. **Lydia Bednarski** is graduating with a degree in Environment, Economy, Development and Sustainability and is from Rocky River, Ohio. **Samuel Reed** is graduating with a degree in Environmental Sciences and is from Independence, Ohio. **Carolyn Voigt** is graduating with a degree in Environment, Economy, Development and Sustainability and is from Indianapolis, Indiana.



***Congratulations to all.***



# Career Bootcamp



Career Bootcamp 2017 went off without a hitch on February 8<sup>th</sup> at the Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center and was hosted by Environment and Natural Resources Alumni Society. There were 31 students representing all five of SENR's majors and multiple graduate student programs and 14 alumni professionals present. It was quite a good turnout for a cold February evening.

Nolan Rutschilling was the master of ceremonies for the evening and helped add a bit of humor to the evening. Panelists this year were Brent Repenning, Melissa Herman and Mark Dilley. The panelist answered prepared questions from Rutschilling and also questions from the students in attendance. Following the panel students and professionals broke up into small groups to have more one on one conversations and to ask the big questions about their given field. This was quite a success with many students staying past the end remarks to keep talking to the professionals.

We would like to thank all the alumni that volunteered to be on our panel and the small group leaders including: J.J. Domiano, Nolan Rutschilling, Eugene Braig, Scott Semroc, Mark Dilley, Mark Giese, Brent Repenning, Melissa Herman, Kevin McCarty, Graham Oberly, Lori Monska, Larry Peck and Matt Perry.

Career Bootcamp is an opportunity for students to connect with alumni and get insight on what it is like to work in their given area of study. Without fail each year a group of amazing alumni volunteers to offer up their time to speak with students that are wanting the inside scoop. Next year's Career Bootcamp is tentatively set for the last week of January 2018.

If you are interested in being an alumni participant please contact us at [ENRAS@osu.edu](mailto:ENRAS@osu.edu).



# Student Leadership Recognized at Annual Banquet

The Lee Johnston Leadership Award celebrates exemplary undergraduate students who exhibit leadership and involvement, especially in the School of Environment and Natural Resources. Students are nominated by fellow peers, faculty, or staff in the School of Environment and Natural Resources. This year's awards were presented by Matt Perry, president of the Environment and Natural Resources Alumni Society.

Two awards were presented at the 2017 College of Food, Agriculture, and Environmental Sciences annual Recognition Banquet. This year's banquet was held on April 6<sup>th</sup> in the Archie M. Griffin Ballroom of the Union. The theme of the banquet this year was "Our Story". Each student awardee received a certificate of recognition and a \$500 scholarship award.



**Congratulations to this year's Lee Johnston Award winners!**

## An Evening with REI's VP for Sustainability

Vik Sahney, vice president for sustainability for Seattle-based REI spoke to a crowd of over 900 on April 12<sup>th</sup> at the Archie M. Griffin Grand Ballroom on the campus of The Ohio State University. REI is the largest consumer cooperative in the United States with over 6 million active members. In his talk, *From Summits to Sustainability: Reaching for High Places, Personally and Professionally*, Sahney shared professional and personal life lessons gained from his climbing expeditions and highlighted REI's sustainability and stewardship programs. Sahney has climbed the seven summits on each continent, including Mt. Everest, Denali and Kilimanjaro.

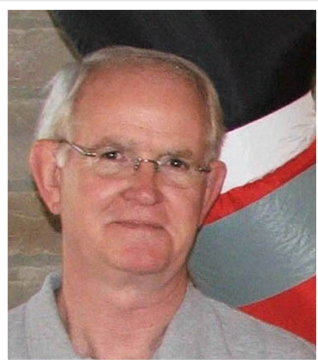
The Environmental Professionals Network (EPN), a service of the School of Environment and Natural Resources, hosted the special evening event. A reception was held prior to the talk with student posters on display from the 2017 Environmental Science Student Symposium. Co-sponsors for the event included Ohio State's Office of Energy and Environment, Sustainable and Resilient Economy Discovery Theme, and Energy Management and Sustainability program in the Office of Student Life.

If you missed the event and would like to watch a recording, view it online at [go.osu.edu/Sahney\\_talk](http://go.osu.edu/Sahney_talk). To learn more about the Environmental Professionals Network, visit: [epn.osu.edu](http://epn.osu.edu).





## Director Profile: Jerry M. Bigham, 2005-2009



Jerry M. Bigham joined OSU's Department of Agronomy in 1977 as an Assistant Professor after receiving his PhD in Soil Science from North Carolina State University. In 1982 he was promoted to Associate Professor and in 1992 to Professor. During his time in Agronomy, Dr. Bigham was actively involved in the mapping and inventory of Ohio soil resources through a partnership with Ohio State, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Services. In 1994 he became a member of the School of Natural Resources faculty following an administrative reorganization of the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

Ten years after his move to the school, Dr. Bigham accepted the role of interim director in August 2004 and was appointed director in June 2005. It was during this time that Dr. Bigham had a vital role in incorporating and establishing the School as the School of Environment and Natural Resources.

Dr. Bigham was a member of the Soil Science Society of America's editorial board for 17 years. He served as the Society's Editor-in-Chief from 1994-1999. He was an Alexander von Humboldt Research Scholar and Visiting Associate Professor at the Technical University of Munich in 1988-1989. In 1997, he was named a Fellow of the Soil Science Society of America and received the Clay Mineral Society's Jackson mid-Career Research Award for work with a previously unknown mineral produced by acid sulfate weathering. Other research interests of his included soil genesis and geography, the influence of soil management on surface water quality, the chemistry and mineralogy of iron in acid mine effluents, the reclamation of lands disturbed by mining, mineral alterations associated with biological leaching processes, and the beneficial re-use of coal combustion byproducts.

Dr. Bigham taught Introductory Soil Science, Soil Morphology and Classification, and Soil Mineralogy courses. He served as chair and co-chair of Graduate Studies in Agronomy and Soil Science from 1987-1998. In 2002 Dr. Bigham became SNR's Research Coordinator.

We thank Dr. Bigham for his many contributions to soil science and to the school, but especially for being a pioneer in the name change that put Environment into our name.



2008 SENR staff retreat to Dawes Arboretum.

### 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. It will allow us to keep you up-to-date with all things happening with ENRAS and the School of Environment and Natural Resources.

[connect1.osu.edu/alumni/osuaa-login?bm=1033047074](http://connect1.osu.edu/alumni/osuaa-login?bm=1033047074)

# Graduation Reception



ENRAS joined faculty, staff, family and friends to celebrate the graduation of students from the School of Environment and Natural Resources. Awards for the students' achievements were presented by Director, Jeff Sharp and Academic Program Manager, Renee Johnston. Our very own student assistant, Molly Hardesty was named one of six distinguished graduates for her dedication to leadership and service to the school. ENRAS President Matt Perry spoke on what it means to be a member of the alumni family. The reception was held Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, in Kottman Hall. There were 132 undergraduate students from SENR graduate this year under five majors.

***Congratulations to all of our newly minted alumni!***



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis.  
For more information: [go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity](http://go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity).

School of Environment and Natural Resources  
210 Kottman Hall, 2021 Coffey Rd  
Columbus, OH 43210  
Phone: 614-292-2265, Fax: 614-292-7432  
Email: [ENRAS@osu.edu](mailto:ENRAS@osu.edu), URL: [senr.osu.edu](http://senr.osu.edu)