



**BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY**



News from NREM

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Point of Interest:

- Amanda Smith, BS98, was recently mentioned in an Indianapolis Star article covering winter bird watching activities at Cool Creek Park. Click [here](#) for the article.



Amanda Figolah with her husband, Tom, and son, Bridger.

Student Explores Heritage at Mississinewa Reenactment

The Mississinewa Battle Reenactment occurs in October every year and is hosted in Jalapa, Indiana, near Marion. The purpose of this event is to bring awareness to what the Miami Indians contributed to the War of 1812 and how this war affected both the Miami and the Delaware tribes that inhabited the area. This reenactment also provides a living history of what it was like to live in those days.

The reenactors come from all over the United States, as well as some areas of Canada. School children from this region of Indiana attend the event on Friday and the general public attends on Saturday and Sunday. The event is sponsored by the Grant County Historical Society as well as many individual contributors.

Some memorable moments were watching the Indian storyteller teach the public about how Mukwa the Bear came into being, and hearing the many other Indian storytellers give details of what it was like for their people to live in those times.

The battle reenactment itself was very cool as the entire thing is authentic. There are trained horses that ride alongside the Crown Force troops and are not even frightened by the sounds of the cannons being shot. One of the greatest elements of this battle reenactment is that everything is historically accurate, from regalia to food. Every morning the raising of the colors occurs and roll is called.

I personally like this event because I am of Miami descent



Ricky Bennett, NREM senior, examines a traditional Miami dwelling at the reenactment event.

and this allows me to be with other people that are also affiliated with the Miami in a setting in which we can come “alive.” History is often written by those that win and rarely ever by those that lose. The Battle of 1812 reenactment is just one of many venues that allow people to truly see both sides of historical events. I’d like to end with the Miami word for thank you, keewa.

- Ricky Bennett

Where is she now? Catching up with Amanda Figolah

My family and I moved to Bloomington, Indiana, and we love it! We spend our time playing both in town, and in the beautiful hills that surround Bloomington, with our son Bridger, who is now 3. In addition to teaching at

Bloomington High School South, I serve on the city’s Commission on Sustainability.

My work with the commission has been very rewarding. Our students have volunteered at E-waste events, cleaned up

parts of Lake Monroe, and volunteered at the local children’s museum garden. Our club is now working on a project to address sustainability in our school cafeteria.

- Amanda Figolah, MA09



Dr. John Pichtel with students at the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Students Experience Australia

This semester, 21 students from Ball State had the experience of a lifetime—four months studying abroad in Lennox Head, Australia. Led by Dr. John Pichtel, professor of NREM, they spent this term exploring new ecosystems and new cultures.

The Australia Center in Lennox Head has been hosting Ball State students for over ten years. Study opportunities at this facility are available during fall and spring semesters, and all majors are welcome. Typically, 20 to 35 students attend per semester. Positioned on the east coast of Australia, this facility is ideally located for the study of natural resources.

“We are situated in a temperate rainforest ecosystem,” says Dr. Pichtel. “Our Centre is located directly on the shoreline. So, we can view a range of terrestrial organisms (wallabies, tropical birds) and also view humpback whales. The students lodge in modern "cabins" at the local Sport and Recreation Centre. Four students reside in each cabin (with all the amenities).”

Each semester, five courses are offered by the Australian faculty, and two are offered by the visiting Ball State professor. This semester, students could choose from the following offerings: Australian life and culture, marine biology, wildlife biology, world literature, events management, international terrorism, and environmental issues in Australia and the South Pacific. As part of their course work, students have had the opportunity to tour multiple rainforest ecosystems. Wildlife biology students have also gained experience tracking indigenous species such as koalas.

Pichtel notes that many of the most important experiences are found outside of the classroom. Volunteering and internships are popular ways that Ball State students build relationships with the local community. This semester, students immersed with local culture by teaching at a local elementary school; assisting at a veterinary clinic; working at the zoo; and contributing to a local publication, "The Lennox

Wave." “This has become a real growth experience for many of our students,” says Pichtel.

Interaction with wildlife (outside of the wildlife biology class) has also been an exciting part of the experience. Students have watched cats chase large lizards across campus, and must be on constant lookout for brown snakes. One afternoon, students returned to find a large python happily coiled on the window sill of their bathroom. Australia is certainly a destination for wildlife enthusiasts.

As for those considering this study abroad opportunity, Pichtel offers three pieces of advice: 1) be prepared for a drastic, but enjoyable, change in culture 2) be flexible! 3) immerse with the local culture.

We look forward to seeing our classmates and Dr. Pichtel when they return from Australia this December.

- Dr. John Pichtel & Graduate Student, Elaine Deichmeister

“This has become a real growth experience for many of our students.”
- Dr. John Pichtel



Python naps on windowsill of student bathroom.

Australian Translator

If you are planning to visit Australia, here are a few phrases you might like to know. If you're stuck in Muncie like most of us, try them out anyway!

Aussie: She'll be apples mate!

American: It will all work out.

Aussie: Bob's your uncle.

American: Fine with me.

Aussie: It's your shout mate.

American: It's your turn to buy the drinks.

Aussie: It's a bloody ripper!

American: That's awesome!



Traveling to Australia? Learn the local lingo!

Alumni in Action!

Amanda Smith, BS98, reports that the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department hosted a Career Success Tour for the 84th National Future Farmers of America (FFA) Convention, held October 19th and 20th.

Hamilton County Parks and Recreation hosted about 100 FFA members at Strawtown Koteewi Park and, with

partners Accidental Discoveries and Cardno/JF New, presented information about careers in archaeology, anthropology, parks and recreation, interpretation, habitat restoration, land management, and natural history.

FFA members came from all over the county including Ohio, Illinois, Colorado,

Arizona, Montana, and California. Smith states, "Since many of our staff and partners have Ball State University connections, the university was mentioned often during the event."

Smith is the Superintendent of Natural Resources & Education for Hamilton County Parks & Recreation Department.



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Alumni Update: announcements and news

Sarah E. Matheny, MS07, is an Interpretive Naturalist for Metro Parks, located in Summit County, Akron, OH.

Stan Lengerich, BS86, was promoted to Senior Engineering Consultant at Eli Lilly, Inc. Formerly on the NREM Alumni Board of Directors from 1995 to 2003, he received the 2005 NREM Award of Achievement.

Vernon D. Gillum, BS88, is property manager at Tippecanoe River State Park.

Terry Coleman, BS84, is the first NREM alumnus to serve as chair of the Ball State University Alumni Council. Coleman is manager of the North Region Division of State Parks and Reservoirs for Indiana's Department of Natural Resources.

Bruce Oldham, BS98 attended the NRPA national conference in Atlanta, Georgia in November. He represented the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department,

where he is a property manager. Bruce serves on the NREM Alumni Board of Directors and received the 2007 NREM Alumni Award of Merit.

Mike Good, BS87, is Executive Director of the Marshall County Solid Waste District in Plymouth, IN. He was a speaker in a session entitled "District Nuts & Bolts" at the Association of Indiana Solid Waste Districts annual conference in Indianapolis on Oct. 19.

J. Scott Crossley, BS97, was promoted to Property Manager at Ouabache State Park near Bluffton, IN.

Kyle Johnson, BS01, is on the NREM Alumni Board of Directors and received the NREM Award of Merit in 2006 for his public service and career success. He was also honored with an award from the Muncie-Delaware County Chamber of Commerce for Excellence in Public Service. Additionally, he recently

completed in the "Icemen Cometh Challenge," a mountain bike race in Traverse City, Michigan, finishing with a time of 2 hours and 36 minutes!

Emily Kress, BS69MAE72, was appointed by Gov. Mitch Daniels to the Indiana Heritage Trust Project Committee that reviews requests for funding from the Environmental License Plate sales to purchase deserving properties in Indiana. Retired since 2007, she also served on the committee when she was director of Outdoor Recreation with Indiana DNR.

Paul Bezy, BA96MA02, is moving from the Technical Center for Caterpillar in Illinois, to the Milwaukee, Wisconsin area to take a position as the Industrial Hygienist and Hazardous Material Coordinator in a new Caterpillar branch.



From left: Kyle Johnson, Dave Bradway, 06; Curt Barkey, Jason Short, (wife Tiffany, 04), and Jeff Roesner, attend the "Icemen Cometh Challenge."



Kyle Johnson, BS01, finished the "Icemen Cometh Challenge," with a time of 2 hours and 36 minutes!

NREM currently employs seven talented graduate students. Please let us introduce them to you!

Meet the Graduate Assistants



Jessica Trensey is from Fort Wayne, Indiana. She graduated from Indiana University with a BS in Environmental Management in May 2011, then interned at the Indiana State Department of Health Chemistry Laboratories over the summer.

For her graduate work, she is focusing on soils and

environmental remediation. She hopes to continue working with soil after graduation, possibly as an environmental scientist, environmental consultant, or wetland scientist.

For now, her work as a graduate assistant entails teaching two laboratory sections for Environment and Society 101.

When she's not working, Jessica likes to listen to Electronic Dance Music (EDM), ride her bike long distances, draw, read, and enjoy a good IPA. Her favorite thing about Muncie is the Cardinal Greenway.



Originally from Highland, Illinois, **Kristi Todd** completed her undergraduate studies in Biology and Environmental Science at Drury University in Springfield, Missouri. After receiving her BS, she participated in an internship with Elliot Lodging to make their hotels more sustainable.

Currently, Kristi is interested in studying water. To this end, her assistantship involves teaching water resource labs.

When asked what she would like to do in the future, Kristi says, "Travel the world and be a treasure hunter. If that doesn't pan out, then I would like to work for the National Park Service, the Missouri

Department of Conservation, or do environmental education. I mainly just want to be outside."

She is also an athlete. She says her most memorable moment at Ball State has been competing in the Mid-West Quidditch Tournament with her team, the Horcruxes.



Jenny Sunday hails from Carol Streams, Illinois, just outside of Chicago. For her undergraduate work she attended the University of Wisconsin Madison where she majored in Biological Sciences. Between graduation and arriving at Ball State she completed a summer internship in New Jersey at the

Wetlands Institute. Jenny plans to continue her work with wetlands by focusing on the human dimensions of managing these natural resources. For her assistantship, she is working with Dr. Joshua Gruver to discover stakeholder attitudes and perspectives on a wetland

restoration project in Fort Wayne.

In her free time, Jenny pursues high adrenaline sports. "I'm an adventure junky," she says. "I like to do things to get the blood pumping. I've been skydiving and am a certified SCUBA diver. I like seeing new places and traveling."

Stephanie Schuck comes from Brookville, Indiana, and spent her undergraduate years studying Anthropology at Indiana University.

Since then, she's had an exciting career. She spent two years in the Peace Corps as an Environmental Action Volunteer in Benin, West Africa. After that,

she worked with animals, both domestic and exotic, in various roles. Her experience includes time spent as a veterinary assistant, rescue/shelter worker, and a zookeeper at Indianapolis Zoo.

Stephanie is still choosing her focus here at Ball State. Her interests include soils, wet-

lands, and woodlands. Her assistantship entails teaching laboratory classes for Soil Resources 221 and Environment and Society 101.

In her free time, Stephanie likes to spend time with her dog, study insects and spiders, take belly dancing classes, and watch zombie movies.



Samantha Grover joins us from the exotic state of Minnesota. Originally from Princeton, MN, Sam majored in Environmental Sciences at the University of Minnesota Duluth.

Here at Ball State, her focus is the human dimensions of natural resources. After she

graduates, she hopes to work in community organizing for a non-profit environmental group. Her assistantship entails teaching laboratory classes for Environment and Society 101.

Sam is still getting acclimated to Hoosier life, but says her favorite places in Muncie are the Cardinal Greenway and

Baskin Robbins. She should also be congratulated for recently taking first place in Heorot Pub Trivia.

When she's not working, or at the Heorot, Sam likes to sing, read, and hike in the woods. She also enjoys cooking. "I love to cook almost as much as I love to eat," she says.



Kerry Nielsen is the man of our department, at least as far as graduate assistants are concerned. He comes from Medaryville, Indiana and attended Manchester College, where he majored in Environmental Studies.

For his graduate work, Kerry is focusing on soil and water

conservation. He has worked with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service for the past two summers, and plans on continuing with them after he graduates.

For his assistantship, Kerry teaches laboratories for Environment and Society 101,

and manages Hults Environmental Learning Center. Hults also provides an ideal property for Kerry's thesis, which examines how winter cover crops affect soil moisture and corn yield.

Kerry's hobbies include fishing, running, and watching football and basketball.



Elaine Deichmeister has been transplanted all the way from Arlington, Virginia. She graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a BFA in Theater.

After graduation, Elaine spent several years traveling and working in the outdoors. She gained experience as a wilderness trip leader, and

ropes course facilitator. She also spent a year in South Korea teaching English.

Here at Ball State, Elaine is focusing on outdoor education and recreation. For her graduate project, she is creating media tools to raise awareness about a local outdoor education facility called Camp Adventure.

Her assistantship entails doing publicity events and publications for NREM, as well as teaching laboratories for Environment and Society 101.

When Elaine is not working, she is playing with her dogs, Jack and Sadie. She also likes to raise a glass with her friends at the Fickle Peach.



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Contact NREM and submit news for consideration in the newsletter!

- For more information about news and upcoming events, contact Ms. Connie Tyner, administrative coordinator at 765-285-5780 or nrem@bsu.edu
- Please send news about promotions or new positions, recognitions, and changes in your contact information to Ms. Sue Taylor at alumni1@bsu.edu or call 765-285-1080. **“Like” NREM Alumni Society** on FaceBook, and visit their *Web site*. [Click here to nominate an alumnus for an *award*.](#)

Thank you!

NREM would like to thank those individuals who contributed to this issue of the newsletter. Your input is much appreciated! Our gratitude goes to:

- Dr. John Pichtel
- Dr. James Eflin
- Ms. Ricky Bennett
- Ms. Kristi Todd
- Ms. Stephanie Schuck
- Ms. Sue Taylor
- Ms. Laura Waldron
- Ms. Amanda Smith
- Ms. Sarah E. Matheny
- Ms. Emily Kress
- Mr. Kyle Johnson
- Ms. Amanda Figolah
- Mr. Kerry Nielsen
- Ms. Jessica Trensey
- Ms. Samantha Grover
- Ms. Jenny Sunday
- Mr. Stan Lengerich
- Mr. Vernon D. Gillium
- Mr. Terry Coleman
- Mr. Bruce Oldham
- Mr. Mike Good
- Mr. J. Scott Crossley
- Mr. Paul Bezy



Make a Difference: Support NREM

Your contribution is invaluable to the support of this department. The gift you make may benefit one or several of the accounts listed below. Thank you for your support of Ball State University's Natural Resources and Environmental Management program.

- Funding for the general welfare of the NREM department #6201
- Operation of the Hults Environmental Learning Center #6203
- Activities and awards of the NREM Alumni Society #6204
- Funding for research projects within the department #6216
- Funding for soil research projects within the department #6217
- Funding for soil and water conservation education activities #6218
- Funding for renewable energy and industrial ecology research #6219
- NREM Scholarships #6250
- Clyde Hibbs Scholarship #6253
- Alex and Anna Nicoloff Scholarship #6254
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Questions?

- To give to NREM, please visit the NREM website and click on the link labeled “Make a Gift.” Or click this link. www.bsu.edu/giving
- For more information about giving to NREM, contact Darleen Lugenbuhl at dmlugenbuhl@bsu.edu.
- To support the creation of a new scholarship, contact Dr. James Eflin, NREM Department Chair at 765-285-5780 or jeflin1@bsu.edu.