The Project WiCCED Network in Action, November 2019

Greetings! Project WiCCED team members have been hard at work. Here are a few updates from the field, lab and classroom.

Ghost Forests

Dr. Stephanie Stotts of Wesley College is currently studying how to approach the environmentally pressing issue of Ghost Forests. Ghost forests are forests that are now dead due usually to saltwater from the rise of sea-level.

Stotts's work primarily focuses on how the tree-ring series of ghost forests provide information on when they formed and what signals the change of a regular forest to a ghost forest. This research is a part of Threat 4 of Project WiCCED, which focuses on ecological stresses from nutrients and salinization.

"The students in the pictures are from SN100 Frontiers in Science: Climate Change. This class fulfills the science requirement for non-science majors and is designed to teach scientific literacy. Students in the class helped collect cores that were analyzed by an EPSCoR summer intern. The results will be presented at the upcoming Delaware Wetlands Conference." - Dr. Stotts.

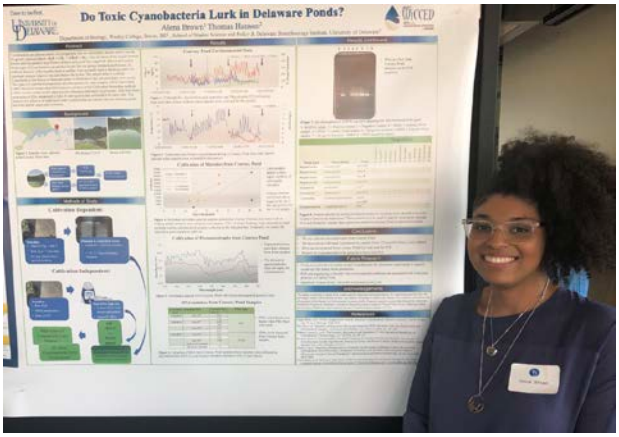
Meet the Project WiCCED Communications Team

Project WiCCED is excited to introduce the Communications Student Team: Alex Ateyah, Hannah Braun, Katelin Phelps, Katie Fry and Christine Colalillo. The communications team will be working to produce materials that highlight the work of Project WiCCED researchers. Alex will focus on creating video content for the project like our new "WiCCED Fast Science" series. Hannah is excited to learn more about environmental economics and write articles about project WiCCED's impact. Katelin wants to create content to bridge the gap between science and the public by highlighting Project WiCCED's research on our social media platforms. Katie is our newest addition to the team from Wesley College, and is excited about science communications in general. Christine, the communications team lead is excited to create content to share about the interesting research that Project WiCCED contributes about water quality in Delaware & beyond.

Project WiCCED is made possible by the National Science Foundation EPSCoR Grant No. 1757353 and support from the State of Delaware.

Pitch:90 2019
Interested in innovative research? The Delaware Environmental Institute's annual Pitch:90 event is a fast-paced elevator pitch competition in which students showcase their research in 90 seconds or less to a panel of twenty judges. All contestants will receive a free Pitch:90 t-shirt and jump drive—and everyone is invited to a fun after-party! The top five winners will be awarded a cash prize, and each contestant has the opportunity to win the grand prize of $500. Come witness these students deliver engaging pitches on their own research on November 14th from 5-7 pm in the University of Delaware's ISE Lab

Showcasing Environmental Scholars
Over the summer, 25 undergraduate students from Delaware Technical Community College (DTCC), Delaware State University (DSU), University of Delaware (UD) and Wesley College participated in research internships to understand these threats to Delaware's water quality, and how we can begin to solve these challenges.



Wesley student, Alena Brown worked at UD with the Hanson Lab, conducted research on the presence of toxic Cyanobacteria in Delaware ponds. DTCC Student, Nathan Castaneda, worked with social science researchers at UD's Center for Experimental & Applied Economics and the Center for Environmental Monitoring and Analysis to investigate the behavioral interventions that may motivate the adoption of irrigation decision support tools. DSU Student, Daniela Rivera worked with Dr. Kalavachara analyzing data about water quality in Delaware salt marshes. UD student, Timothy Wentzien conducted research with the Cai and Rabolt Labs at UD about efforts to create a low-cost water monitoring sensor that utilizes wireless data and solar power

Michael Mann
On Monday October 21, DENIN hosted their 10th anniversary event with climate scientist Michael Mann and University of Delaware faculty McKay Jenkins. Over 300 students, faculty, and alumni gathered in STAR campus to hear Mann speak on the world's climate problem and how he plays a role in communicating science to the public. One of his most notable lines of the night, "there is nothing in the training of a scientist that prepares you for communication", demonstrates the changing world of science and how communications are becoming increasingly important. Jenkins and Mann also stressed the importance of staying hopeful in a world of "doomism." Mann's self-described tagline of his life is "urgency and agency". That is, we must act fast on the climate crisis but there are still things we can do to avoid a climate catastrophe.

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If you'd like to have your team featured in the next issue of Project WiCCED in Action, send a photo or image and brief text to Christine Colalillo at colalil@udel.edu.

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