

BLAKE EDWIN NEUMANN

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Conservation-oriented social scientist with over a decade of experience in community engagement, education, and environmental policy focused broadly on human-environment interactions, as well as qualitative research design, grant-writing, technical reporting and field work

EDUCATION

University of Georgia *May 2028 [anticipated]*
PhD of Geography, Human Geography

SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry [3.85] *May 2019*

Master's of Science, Water and Wetland Resource Studies

Thesis *Stripped Down: Physical and Cultural Impacts of Land Use Changes in Central Appalachia*

Designed and coordinated mixed-method study using primary data from field work including interviews, site observations and water quality monitoring to conduct ecosystem assessment of cultural ecosystem services in central Appalachia

Syracuse University, Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs [3.89] *July 2018*

Master's of Public Administration, Environmental Policy and Administration

Capstone *Workforce Development Consultancy on Barriers faced by International Refugees and Low-Income Immigrants*

Coordinated research design of a qualitative study using primary data from ~20 interviews for a grant report to the Office of New Americans with landscape analysis, quantitative & qualitative analyses, data visuals, conclusions & recommendations

Western Kentucky University, Summa Cum Laude [3.90] *May 2014*

Bachelor's of Science, Geography & Natural Resource Management

FIELD RESEARCH, TEACHING, AND WORK EXPERIENCE

GIS Analyst, ABS Group [FEMA Coordinated Needs Management Strategy Contract] *November '21 – present*

- Validate flood hazards on targeted stream reaches for GIS-based elements in coordination with engineering-based validation staff
- Utilize FEMA's Flood Map Service Center to reference current Flood Insurance Study reports for GIS validation of specific elements
- Evaluate repetitive loss claim properties in relation to mapped floodplains based on FEMA's National Flood Hazard Layer dataset
- Utilize spatial imagery datasets as well as Google Earth Pro to evaluate land use changes in relation to effective study analyses

Clean Water Advocate, Adirondack Council *October '21 – July '24*

- Designed stakeholder analysis of "clean water" priorities via interviews with 30 individuals at state, county, municipal, community levels
- Led grant award process for \$20,000 worth of technology upgrades to support public education through community-based institutions
- Worked with shoreline associations to understand watershed pressures, bridge support gaps, and promote watershed collaboration
- Researched and monitored current aquatic invasive species legislation and regulatory measures across Northeast US to improve advocacy

Outreach and Technical Support Specialist, ABS Group [FEMA Hazus Program Contract] *March '21 – May '21*

- Utilized FEMA's Hazus software package to configure and run scenario modeling for Earthquakes and other natural disasters
- Updated screenshots in a technical support manual intended to train FEMA employees or contractors on using the software
- Proofread, edited, and submitted suggestions to clarify elements of the training manual based on run-throughs of modeling processes

East River Community Resilience Fellow, The Nature Conservancy *August '20 – September 2021*

- Developed press releases, communication plans, webpages, newsletters, presentations, brochures, fact sheets for East River Collaborative
- Ensured alignment of project to strategic priorities of TNC and identified how framework can be scaled to other Great Lakes watersheds
- Worked collaboratively with municipal officials to provide outreach, inventory flood-preparedness needs and identify resilience strategies
- Developed workplan and supervised intern completing demographic analysis, survey and summary of community engagement project

Agribusiness & Biotechnology Faculty, Kentucky Governor's Scholars Program – Centre College *June '20 – August 2020*

- Designed, integrated & implemented sustainability-focused education program enhancing KY's next generation of civic/economic leaders
- Researched trends in sustainable agriculture/resilience to develop and plan delivery of curriculum around programmatic goals & strategies

Scientific Integrity Research and Outreach Coordinator, ORAU [USEPA Contractor] *May '19 – May 2020*

- Assisted leadership in identifying and developing priorities for engagement and outreach opportunities within and outside the Agency

- Conducted background research to develop reports, summaries, press releases, brochures, and factsheets for internal and external use

Teaching Assistant [Intro to GIS; Environmental & Energy Auditing], SUNY-ESF

August '16 – May 2018

- Provided technical support to 200 students, prepared presentations, walkthroughs, support documents to facilitate skill & content mastery
- Strategized course priorities and objectives with leadership, managed multiple projects and tracked progress toward course objectives

Visiting Researcher | Stream Monitoring & Outreach Intern, Coal River Mountain Watch

May – September 2017

- Learned reporting requirements and legislation under CWA; conducted NPDES site observations and testing to determine compliance
- Coordinated training & outreach with Community of Practice (area non-profits, activist groups, conservation officers, local stakeholders)
- Collaborated in strategic planning and visioning with a cross-cutting coalition of non-profits working toward resilience within the region

Teach for America High School Science Teacher, South Granville High School

August '14 – June 2016

- Directly supported ~400 students by managing project timelines and objectives, collecting assessment data & providing detailed feedback
- Executed short and long-term strategic plan goals for the department by aligning lessons, timelines and objectives to curriculum standards

Land Planning Intern, Barren River Area Development District

December '13 – May 2014

- Monitored compliance at field sites via site interviews, and coordinated project activity with regional stakeholders, government officials

International Resource Conservation Intern, Jal Bhagirathi Foundation

August '12 – January 2013

- Conducted research, monitored & analyzed local climate change adaptation & resilience responses in Thar desert for a UNDP publication

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Presenter – A Watershed Approach for Raquette Lake

Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society

January 2023

NYS Federation of Lake Associations

May 2022

Adirondack Research Forum

March 2022

Co-Author – FY2019 Scientific Integrity Annual Report, USEPA

May 2021

FY2018 Scientific Integrity Annual Report, USEPA

May 2020

Presenter - The East River Resilience Collaborative: A Watershed Approach to Resilience Planning

March – April 2021

TNC WI Board of Trustees

Green Bay Conservation Partners Spring Roundtable

Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance Conference

GIS Consultant - Food Backpack Program, Pearsall Adirondack Foundation

October – December 2018

Co-Author - Revitalizing Urban Waterway Communities, Routledge (Taylor & Francis Group)

May 2017

Chapter 6: Restoring Streams and Relationships

Presenter - Community-Based Water Monitoring in Onondaga Lake, Izaak Walton League of America

January 2018

Co-Author – UNDP Traditional Water Conservation Publication, Jal Bhagirathi Foundation

January 2013

AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS

UGA Graduate Teaching Assistantship & Tuition Award

August 2025 – May 2028 [anticipated]

UGA Franklin College Research Assistantship

August 2024 – May 2025

CDEA Office of Farm to Fork Urban Agriculture Grant Award (\$300,000+)

March 2024

New York Sea Grant: NYS Great Lakes Sub-Basin Small Grant (\$50,000)

May 2023

Adirondack Council Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Board Committee

January 2022 – May 2023

Adirondack Lakes Alliance Board of Directors Member

January 2021 – July 2024

NRCS Racial Justice & Equity Conservation Cooperative Agreement Grant (\$100,000+)
Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels

December 2021
June 2020

Randolph G. Pack Environmental Institute Research Grant

May 2018

SUNY-ESF Graduate Teaching Assistantship & Tuition Award

August '16 – May 2018

Teach for America Term of Service Completion

June 2016

Award of Excellence Merit Scholarship Recipient

August '10 – May 2014

Syed Reza Ahsan Merit Scholarship Recipient

March 2014

RELEVANT SKILLS AND PROFICIENCIES

Environmental Outreach & Engagement

Canva | InDesign | Adobe

Project Management & Evaluation

Natural | Cultural Resource Management

Spatial Analysis (ESRI ArcMap, QGIS)

Qualitative Research Design

Curriculum Development & Instruction

Statistical Analysis [SPSS, Stata]

Field Methods (Interview | Survey | etc.)

Microsoft Office Suite

Data Visualization & Management

Capacity & Coalition Building

References available upon request