

EDUCATION

PhD in Resource Ecology & Management; September 2019 - Present

University of Michigan, School for Environment and Sustainability (SEAS)

Dissertation topic: “Ecological approaches to understanding and managing crop diversity for improved agroecosystem functions”

Advisor: Dr. Jennifer Blesh

BS in Environment, Highest Honors and Distinction; 2014 – 2018

University of Michigan, joint degree from the College of Literature, Science, & the Arts (LSA) and SEAS

Minor: Sustainable Food Systems

Honors Thesis: “Summer Cover Crops: Functional Traits and Ecosystem Services”

Advisor: Dr. Jennifer Blesh

ACHIEVEMENTS

Center for Academic Innovation - Student Innovation Fund Grant; Summer 2020

Awarded \$2,000 to conduct a citizen science pilot study on sustainable agriculture in the Great Lakes region.

Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum Drake Prize; Winter 2020

Awarded \$1,500 to conduct a mesocosm experiment related to dissertation research.

Shoemaker Award for Communications Product Excellent, Audio/Visual category; 2019

Awarded by the USGS to the Phragmites Adaptive Management Framework team for a science communication video.

UM School for Environment and Sustainability Travel Grant; Summer 2019

Awarded \$200 to attend Ecological Society of America annual meeting.

Michigan State University Distinguished Fellowship (declined)

One of 20 prospective students offered a UDF out of an incoming class of approximately 500 doctoral students.

Virginia Voss Memorial Scholarship for Excellence in Academic Writing; April 2018

Awarded by the UM LSA Honors Program in recognition of “superior intellectual abilities, diligent pursuit of humane learning, and an outstanding record of academic achievement.”

Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum Drake Prize; March 2017

Awarded \$2,000 to complete Honors Thesis research at UM’s Campus Farm.

James B. Angell Scholar; March 2017

For two or more consecutive terms of all A’s.

University Honors; Fall 2014 - Winter 2018

Rotary Club Scholarship; Fall 2014

Awarded \$1,000 for college expenses.

FELLOWSHIPS

Science Communication Fellow, University of Michigan; Winter 2020

Created a “Scientist Spotlight” video for online viewing on UM’s Museum of Natural History website in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Community and Citizen Science Fellow, University of Michigan; Winter 2020

Developed a sustainable agriculture citizen science project focused on cover cropping in the Great Lakes region, with pilot testing beginning Fall 2020.

University of Michigan's LSA Honors Summer Fellowship; Summer 2017

Interdisciplinary cohort of undergraduate students provided funding and instruction on research best practices for completing an Honors Thesis via weekly seminars.

Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research (CIGLR) Fellowship; Summer 2016

Created and implemented a universal waste management program for NOAA's Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab and its affiliated field station under the mentorship of the Safety & Environmental Compliance Officer.

PUBLICATIONS

Herrick, E. and Blesh, J. (in prep) Bridging agroecological concepts and approaches with cover crop functional traits. *Ecosphere*.

PRESENTATIONS

Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting, Louisville, KY; August 2019

Oral presentation: "Bridging Mechanistic and Predictive Perspectives with Cover Crop Functional Traits"

Midwest Cover Crop Council Annual Meeting, Springfield, IL; February 2019

Poster presentation: "Summer Cover Crops: Functional Traits and Ecosystem Services"

Program in the Environment Honors Symposium, University of Michigan; April 2018

Oral defense of Honors Thesis: "Summer Cover Crops: Functional Traits and Ecosystem Services"

Michigan University-wide Sustainability & Environment conference, University of Michigan, February 2018

Poster presentation: "Summer Cover Crops and Ecosystem Services: Preliminary Results"

Green Life Sciences Symposium, University of Michigan, October 2017

Poster presentation: "Summer Cover Crops and Ecosystem Services: Conceptual Underpinnings"

EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Instructor - EAS 501 (Fall Flora & Ecosystems); Fall 2020

Grading Support - EAS 528 (Foundations of Sustainable Food Systems); October 2019

Co-Instructor - M-STEM Program, University of Michigan; August 2019

Co-instructed a two-week agroecology lab at the UM Campus Farm for incoming undergraduates participating in an intensive summer residency college transition program.

Research Assistant - Blesh Lab, UM School for Environment and Sustainability; May – July 2019

Worked on a USDA-funded project seeking to create a remote sensing tool to understand cover crop adoption rates and the influence of environmental factors on cover crop performance across lower Michigan.

Research Assistant - Zak Lab, UM School for Environment and Sustainability; September 2018 – June 2019

Molecular and microbial ecology research assistant for an NSF-funded project investigating the role of ectomycorrhizal fungi in nitrogen cycling in temperate forest ecosystems.

Field and Office Assistant - USGS Great Lakes Science Center; March – September 2018

Helped develop and implement the citizen science-based *Phragmites* Adaptive Management Framework, delivering presentations throughout Great Lakes region and producing outreach materials to increase stakeholder participation.

SERVICE

Women in Conservation Leadership Program, National Wildlife Federation; October 2018 - Present

Member of the 2020 Summit Planning Subcommittee, charged specifically with increasing engagement and participation of the next generation of women leaders in conservation. (2020 Summit cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic).

Potawatomi Mountain Biking Association; Spring 2018 – Present

Volunteer helping to build, maintain, and raise money for the local trail system; currently a “Segment Adopter” responsible for maintaining a one mile stretch of trail.

Student Food Co.

Student-run farm stand working to reduce food insecurities through offering affordable, locally-sourced produce on campus, while also promoting sustainable, healthful living.

- *President:* February 2016 – August 2016
- *VP of Operations:* April 2015- February 2016
- *Finance Purchasing and Pricing Manager:* October 2014- April 2015

Huron River Day and Mayor’s Green Fair; Summer 2016

Represented the Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research at local community education and engagement events focused on promoting environmental stewardship.

Global Brigades at the University of Michigan: Fall 2014 – Summer 2015

- Partnered with Calgary University on a 9-day trip to Honduras in order to collaborate with rural community members to craft sustainable business plans, with a goal of promoting economic self-sufficiency, particularly for women; included SWOT analysis, community outreach, and market surveys.