



ANDREW L. OPLIGER

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One accomplishment that Andrew noted as a great experience and a source of pride for him was conducting research at Stone Laboratory over the past two summers. Being exposed to research currently being conducted on the Lake Erie ecosystem has strengthened his passion for the environment and furthered his desire to be actively involved in research throughout both his academic and professional careers.

Andrew took advantage of the opportunity to study abroad in Iceland. This unique experience afforded him the chance to study the challenges of environmental degradation, and to study environmental decision making on an international scale. He cited this as a proud experience he gained as a component of his undergraduate education at OSU.

Having multiple opportunities to share his research through presentations, has been a point of pride during Andrew's undergraduate career. Andrew shared as a freshman he was not a confident public speaker. As a result of these experiences, he is now comfortable and confident in public speaking settings. Additionally, he learned the importance of sharing scientific research with the general public. Andrew's nominator noted, "Andy has presented his research at several venues, including The Ohio Academy of Sciences and the Ohio Lake Management Society annual meetings and at the CFAES Undergraduate Research Forum. By invitation, Andy also presented his work at the Ohio Sea Grant Winter Program, as an exemplar of the research being conducted at Stone Laboratory by undergraduate students. Finally, Andy is a co-author on a peer-reviewed manuscript stemming from his research on Lake Erie fishes and Harmful Algal Blooms. Publishing a paper is an extremely rare metric for an undergraduate student and is an excellent indicator of Andy's potential as a scientist."

Andrew's academic achievements include: The Ohio Environmental Science and Environmental Engineering Scholarship | OARDC SEEDS Award: OARDC Research Enhancement Competitive Grants Program | Trent D. Sickles Scholarship Fund | Annabelle E. Hoge Endowment Fund | Rhonda and Paul Sipp Undergraduate Research Award | Langlois Research Fellowship – Stone Laboratory Research Experience for Undergraduates | Barnebey Family Scholarships Fund | The Ohio State Dean's List | Poster Presentations: Annual Water Management Association of Ohio Conference | College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences Undergraduate Research Forum | Annual Meeting of Ohio Academy of Science | Denman Undergraduate Research Forum | Oral Presentations: Visual Detection Thresholds of Walleye Under Varying Turbidity | Stone Laboratory Winter Program.

After graduation, Andrew will pursue graduate level academic work in fisheries, eventually leading to a professional position in academia.

Andrew selected Dr. Suzanne M. Gray as his mentor. He says, "Dr. Gray has provided me the opportunity to conduct independent research in her Aquatic Physiological Ecology lab, served as my research mentor, and as a professor in various classes. Dr. Gray's knowledge, passion, guidance, and support have been instrumental in my current position here at Ohio State. Dr. Gray's commitment to her work and the way that she holistically approaches her role as an advisor, both personally and professional, is truly unprecedented. On top of all that, she is an incredible person, who has helped me in ways that words cannot describe and for which I will never be able to repay her."