

## 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*