

## Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences

Greetings from the Cs

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students have also presented at regional and national/international conferences and received grants for their work. I thank you for your continued support and keep in touch I hope you will enjoy reading this issue and please consider contributing

### EES Welcomes New Faculty and Staff

Ms. Tracie Russo joins Earth and Environmental Sciences as our Administrative Assistant. Tracie was with the Office of Admissions at Murray State University. She

When most fourth-graders were sketching images of flowers, rockets, and pets, Marcie was drawing the Great Sphinx of Giza. Museum visits, frequent hikes in the woods of western Pennsylvania's Allegheny Mountains (where she regularly stumbled upon abandoned

## Faculty Recognized for Excellence in Research and Teaching

Two faculty members in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences were recipients of awards bestowed upon faculty at Murray State University for the 2018-2019 Academic Year. Dr. Michelle Casey was a recipient of the 2019 Board of Regents Award for Teaching Excellence and Dr. Bassil El Masri was the recipient of the Jesse D. Jones College of Science, Engineering and Technology 2019 Outstanding Research Award. Dr. Casey is a paleontologist who taught a variety of geology courses include dinosaurs. Dr. El Masri studies terrestrial ecosystem functions using remote sensing, numerical modeling and field investigations, which contribute to our understanding of ecosystem function and

environmental change that is critical to global climate change and sustainability. Congratulations to Dr. Casey and Dr. El Masri!

## Undergraduate and Graduate Student Awards

*(L-R: Austin Johnessee, Lance Stewart, Alex Cline, and Ben Ferguson)*

2018 - 2019 Outstanding Seniors and Graduate Students

Outstanding Senior in Environmental Geology: Alex Cline

Outstanding Senior in Geographic Information Science: Tanner Dutton and Austin Johnessee

Outstanding Graduate Student in Teaching: Lance Stewart

Outstanding Graduate Student in Research: Ben Ferguson

2018 - 2019 Scholarship Recipients

A B Waters Scholarship: Dante Rivera

Clyde Reed-Jim Smith Scholarship: Cole Fletcher, Kevin Wann, Marie White

D. and Deborah C. Jones Scholarship: Amber Crawford

John E. and Ann N. Wesler Scholarship: Sarah Bowman, Cole Fletcher, Kevin

Wann

Matthai-Panzer Scholarship: Sydney Abbott, Spencer Garrett

Graduate Student Receives National Geographic Grant for Research in East Africa



## Archaeology Field School in Jamaica

Six archaeology students, led by professors Dr. Marcie Venter and Dr. Chris Begley (Transylvania University), studied abroad in Jamaica this summer in search of evidence of the 1519 Spanish settlement of Oristan. Oristan, the second Spanish town founded on the island of Jamaica, was eventually renamed Bluefields after Britain seized it in the 1650s. A major landmark in the area is Fort Oristano, where locals have observed cannons, cannonballs and remaining fortifications over the years. The fort is perched at the edge of a cliff over:

## Summer 2019 Internships



