

BENJAMIN L. FRANEK

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Bloomsburg University
Dept. of Environmental, Geographical, and Geological Sciences
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EDUCATION

University of Connecticut, Geography Ph.D., 2013
Dissertation Research, "On Stream Assessment: Human Perception and Spatiotemporal Delineation of Geomorphic Units"

California University of Pennsylvania, Geography and Regional Planning M.A., 2004
Thesis, "The incorporation of renewable energy resources at the local and regional levels: A case study of Washington County, Pennsylvania municipalities"

Pennsylvania State University, Physical/Environmental Geography B.S., 2001

Pennsylvania State University, Wildlife Technology A.S., 1998

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, Bloomsburg, PA 2008 - Present

Associate Professor:

Environmental Geographical and Geological Sciences 2020 - Present

Assistant Professor:

Environmental Geographical and Geological Sciences 2015 - 2020

Adjunct Professor:

Department of Biological and Allied Health Sciences 2020 - 2022

Adjunct Professor:

Environmental Geographical and Geological Sciences 2008 - 2015

Courses taught: Regional Geography Abroad (in Norway, Summer 2017, 2019)

Research in Environmental, Geographical, and Geological Sciences

Internship in Planning

Internship in Environmental, Geographical, and Geological Sciences

Field Geology

Independent Study in Environmental, Geographical, and Geological Sciences

Research Biology

Surface Hydrology

Environmental Conservation

Water Resources Management

Physical Geography

Environmental Geology

Natural Disasters

Environmental Issues and Choices

Advance College Experience (ACE) Program: Introduction to Physical Geography

Environmental Science

Applied Surface Hydrology

Master of Science Thesis (Biology)

University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

Instructor:

Introduction to Physical Geography

2007

Introduction to Physical Geography (Online)

2006 - 2007

Teaching Assistant:

2005 - 2007

Cartographic Techniques: guest lecture, lab instruction

Environmental Evaluation and Assessment: discussion section leader

Introduction to Physical Geography: instructor/student support.

Researcher:

2006 - 2008

Supervisory responsibilities for field/lab component in investigation of physical and biological classification of in-stream mesohabitat channel units; modeling of river data for use in classification.

California University of Pennsylvania, California, PA

Researcher:

2004 - 2004

Supervisory responsibilities of GIS investigation for Act 54 Report on the Impacts of Underground Coal Mining (1998 - 2003).

INDUSTRY WORK

Briar Creek Association for Watershed Solutions, Briar Creek Watershed, PA

2015 - Present (President)

Watershed planning and management; stream naturalization and rehabilitation; water quality and quantity monitoring; land-use planning; public outreach and education; environmental conservation; 501(c)(3) non-profit management.

2009 - 2015 (Secretary)

Clinton County GIS Department, Lock Haven, PA

2001 - 2003 (GIS Technician)

Produce maps/map books for the county government and general public; update county structure and parcel database; conduct spatial analysis.

Additional Experience

Strip-mine and gas well reclamation; home-medical technician, including hazardous materials commercial transport; refrigerant recovery certification; Pennsylvania wildland forest fire crew certification; ESRI – ArcGIS level I and II workshop training certification; transportation dispatcher.

SCHOLARSHIP

Billard, N. & Franek, B. L. (2021). *Hydrological Analysis of Change from Proposed Recreational Structure Development on West Branch Lackawaxen River in Honesdale, PA*. Bloomsburg University College of Science and Technology Undergraduate Research Day. Bloomsburg.

Franek, B. L. (Session Chair) & Brunskill, J. C. (2019). *An Investigation of the Implementation of GIS During Pre-construction Routing of Natural Gas Pipeline Stream Crossings*. Paper Presentation. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Program with Abstracts. Washington, D. C.

Franek, B. L., & Ruziecki, M. R. (2018). *Glyptemys insculpta (Wood Turtle). Rail trail nesting challenges*. Herpetological Review.

Franek, B. L. (2018) Review of Patrick L. Abbott, Book Chapter on Streams/Flooding in *Natural Disasters 11th ed.* (2020). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.

Franek, B. L. (2018). *Researching Wood Turtles (Glyptemys insculpta) on the Pine Creek Rail Trail*. Susquehanna Heartland Coalition for Environmental Studies. Lewisburg.

- Brunskill, J. C., Franek, B. L., Wickenheiser, O., & Hess, M. (2018). *Developing an enhanced GIS streams dataset to route natural gas pipelines across streams using open-cut trenching*. Paper Presentation. American Association of Geographers annual meeting, Program with Abstracts. New Orleans.
- Ruziecki, M. R., & Franek, B. L. (2017). *From industrial relic to wildlife corridor: establishing wood turtle nesting along Pine Creek Rail Trail*. Poster Presentation. 12th Annual Susquehanna River Symposium, Program with Abstracts. Lewisburg.
- Franek, B. L., & Wenner, D. (2017). *A tale of two sites: The good, the bad, & the educational*. Poster Presentation. American Association of Geographers annual meeting, Program with Abstracts. Boston.
- Ruziecki, M. R., & Franek, B. L. (2017). *Developing a technique to efficiently establish Wood Turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*) usage of the Pine Creek Rail Trail*. 7th Annual Susquehanna Valley Undergraduate Research Symposium. Bloomsburg.
- Ruziecki, M. R., & Franek, B. L. (2017). *Investigating the hydrological setting function of Wood Turtles (*Glyptemys insculpta*) on the Pine Creek Rails-to-Trails*. Bloomsburg University College of Science and Technology Undergraduate Research Day. Bloomsburg.
- Fackler, E. L., & Franek, B. L. (2017). *Investigating the biological function of Wood Turtles (*Glyptemys insculpta*) on the Pine Creek Rails-to-Trails*. Bloomsburg University College of Science and Technology Undergraduate Research Day. Bloomsburg.
- Franek, B. L. (2017). *Faculty volunteering: affording experiential learning opportunity venues*. Teaching and Learning Enhancement (TALE) Center Seminar. Bloomsburg University. Bloomsburg.
- Whisner, J., Franek, B. L., and Beyer, P. J. (2016). *Structured encounters with real data: sneaking up on doing science*, Geological Society of America, Program with Abstracts, v. 48, no. 7. doi: 10.1130/abs/2016AM-284741, invited presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America, Sept. 25-28. Denver.
- Haney, J. J. & Franek, B.L. (2016). *Ways to incorporate reflective learning into your courses*. Teaching and Learning Enhancement (TALE) Center Seminar. Bloomsburg.
- Ciecierski, D. T., Shapiro, N., Whisner, J., & Franek, B. L. (2016). *In search of data - Fishing Creek Hydro Watch summer 2016*, Program with Abstracts, 11th Annual Susquehanna River Symposium. Lewisburg.
- Ciecierski, D. T., Whisner, J., & Franek, B. L. (2016). *Fishing Creek Hydro Watch – A better flood prediction system*, Bloomsburg University College of Science and Technology Undergraduate Research Day. Bloomsburg.
- Ciecierski, D. T., & Franek, B. L. (2016). *Tracking down the legacy of Brewington Dam*. Bloomsburg University, College of Science and Technology – Research and Scholarship Day. Bloomsburg.
- Franek, B. L., & Stephens, A. (2016). *Investigating hydrologic regime change: Modeling stream hydrodynamics on West Branch Run*. Hemlock Acres Property Owners Association. Iola.
- Stephens, A., & Franek, B. L. (2016). *Investigating hydrologic regime change: Modeling stream hydrodynamics on West Branch Run*. Bloomsburg University, College of Science and Technology – Research and Scholarship Day. Bloomsburg.
- Yurchak, J., Franek, B. L., & Whisner, J. (2015). *Where did the water go? Analyzing the accuracy of discharge measurements at the Fishing Creek Hydrowatch Kocher Park site, Columbia County, Pennsylvania*. Bloomsburg University, College of Science and Technology – Research and Scholarship Day. Bloomsburg.
- Franek, B. L. & Corbin, N. (2012). *Briar Creek Watershed - Coldwater Conservation Plan*. Coldwater Heritage Partnership. Bellefonte.

Franek, B. L. (2009). *Building of a fluvial benchmark/monitoring system by a local watershed organization*. Poster Presentation, Association of American Geographers, Middle States Regional Meeting. New Paltz.

Franek, B. L. (2007). *Spatial and temporal variation in mesohabitat extent: Implications for reference reach selection*. Presentation, Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Program with Abstracts. San Francisco.

Franek, B. L. (2006). *The incorporation of renewable energy resources at the local and regional levels: A case study of Washington County, Pennsylvania municipalities*. Poster Presentation, Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Program with Abstracts. Chicago.

Conti, D. J. et al. (2004). *Act 54 Report on the Impacts of Underground Coal Mining (1998 - 2003)*. California University of Pennsylvania. California.

GRANTS/ FUNDING

Briar Creek Association for Watershed Solutions. (2018). *Trees (container seedlings) for flood mitigation on Briar Creek Watershed*. PPL Electric Utilities, Community Roots program: \$400.

Franek, B. L., & Mock, L. (2018). *EGGS 211: Regional Geography Abroad*. Department of Environmental, Geographical, and Geological Sciences, John Enman Fund: \$2,000.

Ruziecki, M. R., & Franek, B. L. (2017). *Investigating the eco-hydromorphic setting function of the Wood Turtle (Glyptemys insculpta)*. Bloomsburg University Undergraduate Research Scholarship and Creative Activities (URSCA) Award: \$1,500.

Franek, B. L., & Mock, L. (2017). *Course logistics, EGGS 211: Regional Geography Abroad*. College of Science and Technology, Dean's Office Faculty Support: \$1,000.

Briar Creek Association for Watershed Solutions. (2016 - 2017). *Weiss/Reeder property agricultural impairment mitigation and stream naturalization project*. Northeccentral Pennsylvania Conservancy and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection: \$5,246.

Whisner, J., & Franek, B. L. (2016-2017). *Collecting and analyzing GIS and stream discharge data in support of developing a flood-forecasting model for the Fishing Creek watershed*. Degenstein Foundation through the Susquehanna Heartland Coalition for Environmental Studies: \$4,254.

Franek, B. L., & Mock, L. (2016). *Development of a new course, EGGS 211: Regional Geography Abroad*. Department of Environmental, Geographical, and Geological Sciences: \$500.

Franek, B. L., & Mock, L. (2016). *Development of a new course, EGGS 211: Regional Geography Abroad*. College of Science and Technology, Dean's Office Faculty Support: \$1,000.

Beyer, P. J., Whisner, J., Pelton, T., Franek, B. L., & Prater, S. (2013). *Creating community-based hydrologic monitoring and flood forecasting for Fishing Creek, PA*. Bloomsburg University Presidential Strategic Planning Grant: \$50,000.

Franek, B. L. & Corbin, N. (2011). *Coldwater conservation planning grant, Briar Creek Association for Watershed Solutions and Columbia County Conservation District*. Coldwater Heritage Partnership: \$14,026.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

2021 - 2022 Member, Bloomsburg University General Administration Committee.

2021 Commencement Reader College of Science and Technology Graduation (Fall).

2020 – Present, Representative, College of Science and Technology Pathways for EGGS Department.

2020 - Present, EGGS Department Observation/Evaluation Committee.

2020 - 2022 Masters Research Advisor and Major Professor, Alexis Bowser.

2020 - 2022 Masters Research Advisor and Major Professor, Kayla Davis.

2020 - 2022 Faculty pool member, Bloomsburg University Academic Grievance Board.

2018 - 2020 Elected committee member, Bloomsburg University General Education Council.

2015 – Present, Committee member, EGGS Department Curriculum/Assessment Geography, and Environmental Geosciences subcommittees.

2019 Invited Speaker, Bloomsburg University 2nd Annual Conference of the Academy.

2019 Chair, Search Committee for EGGS 211, Regional Geography Abroad summer session faculty position.

2018 - 2020 Co-Director, Bloomsburg University Environmental Sciences Learning Community.

2017 - 2018 Host, Virtual Ambassador Program with the Royal Norwegian Embassy, Washington, D.C. at Bloomsburg University.

2018 Invited Reviewer, Middle States Geographer, Journal of the Middle States Division American Association of Geographers (Hydrology Specialty).

2018 Bloomsburg University Majors, Minors and Career Pathway Options Fair.

2016 - 2017 Chair, Bloomsburg University, College of Science and Technology, Faculty Recognition Awards Committee.

2015 - Present, Invited Presenter, An exploration of EGGS materials for student interpreters, for Jessica Bently and Suzi Glowaski, Students with Disabilities Center.

2015 - Present, EGGS Department Hyperwall Committee.

2015 - 2016 Search committee member, Bloomsburg University Assistant Provost for Academic Programs, Policies and Collaborations and Dean of Undergraduate Education position.

2015 - 2016 Co-Chair, EGGS Department Five-year Review Committee.

2015 - 2016 Search committee member, EGGS Department Cartography and GIS tenure-track position.

2015 Search committee member, EGGS Department Cartography and GIS adjunct position.

2015 Panelist, Bloomsburg University, College of Science and Technology Career Day.

2015 Invited Panelist, Special Topics course on Global Climate Change, global climate simulation, for Dr. John Hintz, Department of Environmental, Geographical, and Geological Sciences.

2015 (Spring) Interim Coordinator, Bloomsburg University, National Weather Service weather station.

2014 Co-Leader, Bloomsburg University Summer Study Abroad program/Field research in Cameroon and Ethiopia, Africa.

2012 - 2014 Mentor, Bloomsburg University Act 101/EOP Mentoring Program.

2013 Seminar Co-Presenter, Teaching and Learning Enhancement Center seminar: Strategies for effectively managing disruptive behaviors in the classroom.

2013 - Present, Quiz Master, Science Iditarod for regional high schools, Bloomsburg University.

2011 - 2012 Field-trip Leader, Green Campus Initiative, Earth Day local watershed with recycling center tour for Bloomsburg University students.

2011 Presenter, On solar power possibilities to Bloomsburg University Green Campus Initiative.

2011 Speaker, Orientation for incoming students, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania.

2010 Leader, Surface Hydrology field class, for Dr. Patricia J. Beyer, Department of Geography and Geosciences, Bloomsburg University.

2006 - 2007 Geography graduate student representative, To the faculty, Department of Geography, University of Connecticut.

2006 Invited Reviewer, EDGE Project, Association of American Geographers; Department of Geography, University of Connecticut.

2006 Panelist, Orientation for new teaching assistants, University of Connecticut.

2004 Representative, At the Southwestern Pennsylvania Regional GIS Data Consortium initial planning meeting, Department of Geography and Regional Planning, California University of Pennsylvania.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

2021 Invited member, Columbia County Countywide Action Plan, Stream Restoration Subgroup.

2021 Community Watershed Organizations Metrics Study Advisory Group Member, Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR).

2009 - Present, Elected voluntary executive board member (president; past secretary), Briar Creek Association for Watershed Solutions (BCAWS). Projects include flood mitigation, invasive species management, public outreach/education, stream naturalization/restoration, watershed conservation and planning, agricultural management, and environmental consulting.

2011 - Present, Organizer/presenter, Regional watershed groups annual meeting.

2018 Invited Presenter, "Good Water" at Sullivan County, PA, Good Water Good Coffee Event.

2018 Presenter, "Native Plants for Stream Naturalization," with Mary Jo R. Gibson (Penn State Extension Master Gardener), Berwick Public Library, Berwick, PA.

2017 Presenter, Climate and Weather, to Bloomsburg, PA Girl Scout Troop 30202.

2016 - Present, Volunteer, Columbia County Watershed Education Day.

2013 Field trip leader, Streams studies fieldtrip with second and third grade students from Greenwood Friends School.

2013 Invited presenter, "The Geology of Briar Creek Lake/BCAWS Current Research and Projects," Briar Creek Lake, Briar Creek Township, PA.

2009 Presenter, "Building of a Fluvial Benchmark/Monitoring System by a Local Watershed Organization," Berwick Public Library, Berwick, PA.

2004 Consultant, Washington County, Pennsylvania Planning Department in the formation of a new Geographic Information System, Department of Geography and Regional Planning, California University of Pennsylvania.

CERTIFICATIONS, TRAINING, and WORKSHOPS

2018 Bloomsburg University Office of Military and Veterans Resources, Green Zone Certification.

2018 Bloomsburg University Conference of the Academy.

2017 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Scientific Collector Permit, *Glyptemys insculpta*.

2017 Pennsylvania Statewide Conference for Watershed Organizations, Watershed Connections: Bringing communities together. State College, Pennsylvania.

2017 Private Pilot Ground School, Bloomsburg Municipal Airport.

2016 Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, EDU, Protect Children Certificate.

2014 - 2016 National Outdoor Leadership School, Wilderness Medicine Institute, wilderness first aid certification.

2016 Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, Coaching the Van Driver Course.

2015 IES Study Abroad Annual Conference.

2015 Bloomsburg University Teaching and Learning Enhancement Center seminar, How to search for funding sources to support your research scholarship and creative activities.

2014 Bloomsburg University Teaching and Learning Enhancement Center seminar, Getting where you want to go: nuts, bolts, and potholes of curriculum mapping.

2012 Bloomsburg University Teaching and Learning Enhancement Center seminar, Pedagogy strand-reusable learning objects, Learn how to turn existing PowerPoint presentations into reusable modules.

HONORS/AWARDS

Bloomsburg University Professional U Champion	2019
Bloomsburg University Influential Professor Award	2018
Bloomsburg University Magazine, Around the Quad Feature	2013
Teaching Assistantship, University of Connecticut	2005 - 2007
Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, University of Connecticut	2005 - 2007
Ph.D. Dissertation Grant, University of Connecticut	2006 - 2007
Penn State Agricultural Sciences Alumni Society Outstanding Student Award	1998
Penn State Student Affairs Award for campus community involvement	1998

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles	2017 - Present
International Association of Hydrological Sciences	2015 - Present
National Geographic Society	2014 - Present
Briar Creek Association for Watershed Solutions	2009 - Present
The American Association of Geographers	2003 - Present

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Human perception of fluvial systems; watershed conservation and planning; wildlife utilization of industrial infrastructure; teaching methods and learning styles synthesis; travel abroad geographic education; stream dynamics modeling; natural hazards.