Danielle Piontkowski

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Education

New York University, New York, NY GPA: 4.0 2019-2021

- Environmental Health Science MSc

Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY GPA: 3.77 2015-2019

- Environmental Engineering BSc, Environmental Health Science Minor
- Honors Program Undergraduate Thesis: "Iridescent: A Novel"
- Tau Chi Alpha Environmental Engineering Honor Society, President
- Senior Class Representative, Honors Program

Technical University of Denmark, Lyngby, Denmark Spring Semester 2017

- Study abroad experience

Research Experience

Psychological Distance From Climate Change Master's Thesis August 2020-Present

- Survey-based Master's thesis analyzing how psychological distance and construal level play a role in how climate change is perceived, focusing on undergraduate students attending New York University
- Asked students questions to determine their psychological distance from climate change, their construal level, how likely they are to engage in pro-environmental behaviors, and how likely they are to support climate mitigation and adaptation policies
- Results to be analyzed using R to conduct basic statistical analyses and a linear regression model; results will provide insight into the most appropriate way to frame climate change in an educational setting to achieve higher levels of awareness and engagement, particularly amongst university students

Electrical Discharge Plasma Reactor Development for Water Treatment Applications May-July 2016

- Clarkson University – lab assistant for Dr. Selma Mededovic
- Assisted in developing a plasma reactor to be used for degradation of contaminants in drinking water
- Tested a wide variety of emerging contaminants at different concentrations and reaction times in the reactor to determine what chemical properties and physical phenomena affected the degradation rate of chemicals
- Conducted surface tension measurements of contaminants at different concentrations to determine if bulk surface tension has an impact on a contaminant's degradation rate
- Mentored an incoming freshman students for five weeks in the lab and taught student how to use lab equipment and how to run experiments with the plasma reactor
- Found a variation in treatment rates for different chemicals based largely on changes in surface concentration and the surface flow velocity; this helped create a model to predict whether plasma is appropriate for elimination of a given specific emerging contaminant in water
- Presented results of plasma research and won best oral presentation in the Water Treatment Technologies category at Clarkson University's Student Undergraduate Research Experiences Conference

Employment

Barton & Loguidice Water/Wastewater Internship May-August 2018

- Assisted in the unit process evaluation, determination of necessary improvements, and development of a preliminary engineering report for the Town of Seneca Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Conducted Inflow and Infiltration study in the Town of Hastings' sanitary sewer collection system.
- Conducted all field work and data analyses to determine necessary rehabilitation measures for the system
- Participated in various water treatment plant and collection system design projects by analyzing and compiling data, creating and editing AutoCAD drawings, creating GIS maps to present information, and developing preliminary engineering reports to be submitted to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Clarkson University Admissions Student Worker December 2015-May 2019

- Responsible for leading tours for prospective students during the week and at Clarkson University open houses and accepted student's day
- Front desk duties include scheduling appointments for campus interviews and tours, answering questions from prospective students, and transferring phone calls to the relevant person or department

Leadership Experience/Activities

Clarkson University Honors Program September 2015–May 2019

- Completed a coming-of-age novel for the undergraduate thesis; novel focuses on the mental changes and maturation of a male college student after his friend attempts and fails to commit suicide; purpose of novel is to exhibit depression worsened by psychosocial factors and personality traits such as perfectionism, anxiety, and low self-esteem. Novel presented at Clarkson University's Research and Project Showcase (RAPS) in April 2019
- Mentor to a junior Honors student, with duties including: helping her choose a thesis topic and faculty mentor, helping the student with her thesis proposal paper, and meeting with the student to check in on her thesis progress and assist with any difficulties the student is encountering
- Class representative for junior and senior year. Duties consisted of attending weekly meetings to discuss current concerns within the Program, communicating meeting information to students of my year, voice any concerns from fellow students at weekly meetings, and assisting in planning Honors events
- Trained Honors tour guides to give tours to prospective students at Clarkson University student open houses and Honors Program open houses

Tau Chi Alpha Environmental Engineering Honor Society November 2016-May 2019

- President of Clarkson University's chapter for 2018-2019: Run meetings and ensure our chapter promotes activities to benefit Clarkson and the community
- Secretary of Clarkson University's chapter for 2017-2018: In charge of communication both within and outside of Clarkson's chapter, assisted the President with tasks such as meeting minutes, organizing new member interviews, and setting up the induction ceremony for new members
- Organize on-campus projects and events such as trail and campus trash cleanups, informational panels on potential career paths within environmental science and engineering, and Earth day activities such as making Earth-friendly household cleaners
- Conduct outreach with local high schools to educate the youth on environmental engineering and anthropogenic impacts on the environment. Examples of topics include different energy sources and their respective environmental impacts, an introduction to environmental engineering, and analyzing the overall life-cycle impact of a cookie

Skills and Certifications

Experience with: Microsoft Word, Excel, Monte Carlo, PowerPoint, MATLAB Programming, GIS, AutoCAD, R, Qualtrics