



ASIEL (ACE) ARROYO

Concentration: Urban Sustainability Pronouns: he/him/his
I grew up on a dairy farm in Idaho, where I gained an appreciation for our natural resources and saw many of the challenges involved in agriculture. After high school, I enlisted in the Marine Corps and then returned to Idaho, earned a B.A. in Multidisciplinary Studies from Boise State University. I've worked as a Business Intelligence Analyst. Now I'm pivoting my career toward sustainability. My goal is to bridge sustainable agriculture with urban areas: make conditions safer for farmworkers, empower people, improve quality of life, conserve natural resources, and combat climate change.

MICHAEL BARRY

Concentration: Water Sustainability and Climate Change
I am the vintner at a local winery. The skills and knowledge I acquired from the UMass Food Science program (2017) and the HCC Culinary Arts program (2015) are fundamental to the winery's continued success. Through MS3, I wish to enhance my planning abilities to upgrade sustainability and increase efficient resource utilization. I was commissioned an officer in the US Army through the UMass ROTC program while graduating from Western New England U. with a degree in Business Management. Education has served to enhance my personal voyage. I am confident MS3 will improve the adventure.



DUGAN BECKER

Concentration: Dual Degree MRP/MS3
From Westwood, MA, I have been immersed in the natural beauty of New England, and have developed a strong passion for environmental protection. This passion led me to UMass Amherst for my undergraduate studies, where I received a B.S. in Natural Resources Conservation, and where I am enrolled as a dual degree Masters student in both Sustainability Science and Regional Planning. Since 2018, I have been worked with the UMass Clean Energy Extension, where I serve as a Municipal Support Coordinator, assisting cities and towns throughout Mass. to work towards their sustainability goals.



ZACHARY BERGERON-CLEARWOOD

Concentration: Urban Sustainability Pronouns: he/him/his
I graduated from the University of Maryland with a BS in Biology and from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a MS in Visual Ecology. Since undergrad, I have been interested in the intersection between build urban environments, nature, and sustainability -- how can we incorporate nature and natural processes into the build environment, how can we best use new research to improve the sustainable practices of cities, how do we democratize access and encourage engagement of city dwellers to natural spaces. I'm especially interested in sustainable transportation.



MADISON BRADY

Concentration: Water Sustainability and Climate Change Pronouns: she/her/hers
I am from Leominster, MA and attended UMass as an undergraduate studying Environmental Science. By contributing to graduate level research on winter lake drawdowns in MA through a co-op program at UMass, I discovered a passion for freshwater resource conservation and restoration within the environmental field. Since then, I have been committed to studying freshwater systems and am inspired to make a difference in water and habitat quality throughout New England. Even though freshwater is my focus, I also enjoy exploring and studying marine ecology, geology, and forestry.



MEGAN BROCKELBANK

Concentration: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Pronouns: she/her/hers
I am a homesteader, mother of two beautiful kids, and a lover of food and nature. I graduated from UMass with a Bachelor's Degree in Sustainable Food and Farming in 2017 and I am excited to get back into the world of education. I have a passion for learning and teaching, for the environment and how our food is grown and for creating a world that's greener for future generations.



STEPHANIE CAMP

Concentration: Dual Degree MRP/MS3 Pronouns: she/her/hers
I am from Southern Connecticut and graduated in May of 2019 with a B.A. in both Environmental Studies and Urban and Community Studies from the University of Connecticut. My time as an undergraduate helped me to further develop my interests in environmental and social issues, as well as my desire to help make the changes necessary to create more sustainable and equitable communities. I'm very excited to start my second year as a dual-degree MRP/MS3 candidate and get the in-person UMass experience!



SAM CARTER

Concentration: Urban Sustainability Pronouns: he/him/his
I am from Central Mass. and studied environmental science for my undergraduate degree at UMass Amherst. I'm looking forward to studying how we can modify our regions and municipalities to become more equitable, inclusive, and environmentally conscious. I'm also interested in how our perception of the world is affected by the built environment and how a large-scale shift in the makeup of a region through sustainability projects would affect the ways its inhabitants interact with and think about the world around them.



DAWN COSTA

Concentration: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Pronouns: she/her/hers
Dawn is the Managing Editor of the Alternative and Complementary Therapies clinical journal which provides evidence-based information on integrative approaches to healthcare. She has over 14 years of experience managing health and wellness content in areas pertaining to nutritional, botanical, and mind-body therapies. In the MS3 program, she is excited to continue to explore the role of plants in human health and wellness. One of her goals is to help facilitate the shift toward sustainable healthcare with culinary, botanical, and nature-based therapies as a foundation.



CHEYENNE ELLIS

Concentration: Water Sustainability and Climate Change Pronouns: she/her/hers
Originally from Connecticut, I graduated from Mount Holyoke College with a BA in Environmental Studies with a minor in English. I am interested in aquatic ecosystems and the impacts of climate change on submerged aquatic vegetation and aquatic organisms, as well as how changing water bodies will impact those who live in their vicinity. I am also very interested in scientific communication and finding different methods that allow the public to connect with and understand complex scientific topics.



RACHEL GIES

Concentration: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Pronouns: she/her/hers
I grew up in Boston, MA, and recently graduated from UMass Amherst with a B.S. in Environmental Science and a minor in Natural Resources Conservation. As an undergraduate, I was the GIS Assistant for the Physical Plant. I have been a vegetarian for 5 years after watching Cowspiracy, and this led to my passion for reducing the impacts the meat industry has on our environment. I am also interested in finding ways to improve food security in Boston and other urban areas.



ANGIE GREGORY

Concentration: Urban Sustainability Pronouns: she/her/hers
Angie has been a long-time advocate for sustainability and community organizing. She founded the first zero-waste diaper service in MA that compost disposable diapers. She joined local networks supporting workplace democracy and reincorporated as a women-owned worker cooperative soon after its inception. She is often engaged in local issues, advocating for the City's bike/ped committee and supporting the City's Reuse committee through advocacy and volunteering. During her time at Smith as an Ada Comstock Scholar, Angie developed programmatic center partnerships across campus in advocacy for project-based curriculums that engage in civic projects in service to the SDGs.



RYAN GRIFFIS

Concentration: Dual Degree MRP/MS3 Pronouns: he/him/his
I graduated from UMass Boston in 2016 with a B.A. in Political Science. As an undergraduate I focused on political campaigns and policy projects on issues ranging from climate justice to electoral reform. I became interested in urban planning and addressing problems at the local level. In 2018, I attended a hands-on program in New Mexico to learn about building regenerative housing, and in 2019 I was elected to Town Meeting in my hometown of Danvers, MA. I am excited to study in the MS3 and MRP Programs, and believe they will help me be a more effective proponent in my field.



MONICA GUZIK

Concentration: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Pronouns: she/her/hers
I graduated from UMass Amherst with a B.S. in Sustainable Food and Farming. I grew up in Western Mass. but since graduating I have had the chance to live and work from Cape Cod to Colorado and have had the opportunity to travel abroad. I am eager to start the MS3 program to delve into topics that revolve around policy, public engagement, and nutrition. My goal is to be part of creating and implementing community-based solutions that will help cultivate more resilient and sustainable food systems.

LEE HALASZ

Concentration: Dual Degree MRP/MS3 Pronouns: he/him/his
Nine years ago I moved from Australia to New England, and I have loved learning about a climate, ecology and cultural history very different from that of my 'previous life'. I have always been fascinated by and worked in the broad field of wildlife, ecosystems and land management. I worked with Kestrel Land Trust for three years helping to progress their land conservation vision, before spending the last two years completing an MRP with a focus on natural and working lands. With MS3, I am really looking forward to bringing more environmental and ecology courses into my studies.



ROBIN HANSEN

Concentration: Dual Degree MRP/MS3 Pronouns: she/her/hers
I graduated from UMass Amherst with a B.S. in Sustainable Community Development in 2021. In MS3, I aim to expand on my knowledge on how to better design our built environment to create a more sustainable relationship with the Earth and its resources. My interest began from growing up in Brewster, MA, having witnessed the destruction of Cape Cod's fragile and beautiful ecosystems from the damaging effects of climate change. I work as a research assistant on an NSF-funded project studying the food, energy, water nexus and I am an intern for the assistant town planner of Maynard, MA.



KATIE HOWE

Focus: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems
From Malden, MA, I graduated from the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in 2020. In my time at MCLA I have taken part in a number of academic projects focusing on food waste and composting, food insecurity in the Northern Berkshire County, land conservation, invasive species awareness, and water quality testing in the Hoosic River. Environmental policy, social justice, leadership, and activism are great passions of mine. I look forward to continuing my studies in the MS3 program to strengthen my understanding of and exposure to topics of sustainability and food systems.



GABY IMMERMANN

Concentration: Urban Sustainability
Gaby has been teaching the Horticulture courses and running the summer internship program as the Landscape and Education Specialist at the Smith College Botanic Garden for almost 20 years. A native New Yorker, she oversaw field operations for NYC's community gardening program, and accumulated a range of professional experience in both horticulture and agriculture all over the U.S. before settling down in Northampton in 1999. Gaby has served on the Board of Grow Food Northampton and played a leadership role in the development of their community farm for almost a decade. She is also Co-Moderator of the Mill River Greenway Initiative.



ERICA LIGHT

Concentration: Urban Sustainability Pronouns: they/them/theirs
I am a professional editor of medical research manuscripts and the developer and instructor of a new student-driven inquiry-based laboratory course for the Integrated Concentration in Science (iCons) Program. My mission is to facilitate inclusion, accessibility, and diversity in the sciences both institutionally and epistemologically. I bring to my studies a degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, an Integrated Concentration in Science, and 4 years experience in undergraduate laboratory course instruction and coordination.



CHRIS MCCORKINDALE

Concentration: Urban Sustainability Pronouns: she/her/hers
My background is in the performing arts, and from 1999 to 2015, in IT as a Technology Analyst at Harvard Business School. Originally from a small town in North Carolina, I studied dance in LA, and lived in the UK and other parts of Europe in my 20s and early 30s. A recent transplant from Boston to western MA, I'm thrilled to be part of the MS3 program. This latest chapter of my life was initiated through my interest in 'urban homesteading'; living more sustainably, and the permaculture course I took in 2015.



AINSLEY MCSTAY

Concentration: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Pronouns: she/her/hers
I graduated from UMass Amherst with a BS in environmental science and sustainable food and farming. As an undergraduate, I worked on multiple farms as a farm crew member and was involved with agricultural pest and disease management plans. I am now working in a biogeochemical lab analyzing the effects of heavy metal pollutants in edible plant growth and the bioavailability of heavy metals in urban community garden soils. I am very excited to continue with my education in sustainability, focusing on sustainable ag. and food systems in MS3!



JESSICA MOORING

Concentration: Dual Degree - MS3/MRP Pronouns: she/her/hers
I graduated from UMass in 2020 with a B.S. in Natural Resources Conservation. I grew up in Western Massachusetts and my passion for sustainability solidified after spending a semester studying abroad in Bhutan experiencing the interconnectedness of community and environmental stewardship. I am excited to continue my studies as part of the MS3 program and look forward to expanding my knowledge and experiences.



JORDAN MORAN

Concentration: Environmental Quality Pronouns: she/her/hers
I grew up in central Kentucky with an endless supply of trees, creeks, and trails around me. I got my B.S. in Biology from Eastern Kentucky University so I could play in the woods professionally. I completed an internship in Joshua Tree National Park doing vegetation restoration and invasive species removal. Using my degree and experience, I am excited to be concentrating on environmental quality to preserve and protect our public lands so other kids can grow up with an endless supply of trees, creeks, and trails.



ROBERT NAVAROLI

Focus: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems
After serving in the US Marine Corps, I earned an associate's degree in Natural Resources and Technology, and a bachelor's degree in Sustainable Food and Farming. I worked with the livestock and horses at the Hadley farm and a local dairy farm, spent 3 months WWOOFing in Scotland as a practicum, and traveled the east coast evaluating dairy farms. Currently, I work at W.H. Miner Institute in Chazy, NY as a research technician, focusing on dairy farming, environmental, and agronomy. My goal is to continue in research or consulting focused on sustainability and livestock production.



CHRISTINE NELSON

Concentration: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Pronouns: she/her/hers
I'm thrilled to be back at school after some years of raising a family. My background has been in communications; I earned my BA from Washington University in St. Louis. A love of plants and nature has been life-long for me, whether I have been gardening, beekeeping, educating others, or growing a field full of flowers. I am working towards a career and life that will enable me to have a hand in minimizing climate change. I'm especially interested in soil health and removing our excess atmospheric carbon dioxide through soil carbon sequestration.



JENNIFER NELSON

Focus: Urban Sustainability Pronouns: she/her/hers
Jennifer is a 2020 UMass graduate with a B.A. in Communication. She has a multifaceted academic and professional background encompassing knowledge of green architecture and animal science, a semester abroad in Italy, and multiple cleantech internships. These experiences, paired with the rising urgency for corporate regulations and ecological protections, pushed Jennifer to continue her exploration of the intersection of people, policy, and the environment with the MS3 program.

KEVIN O'BRIEN

Concentration: Water Sustainability and Climate Change Pronouns: he/him/his
Kevin most recently held an AmeriCorps position in Southern Vermont where he worked to engage the community in local resiliency efforts through municipal government. He found that position after being evacuated from Peace Corps service in Zambia where he was working with the Linking Income Food and Environment (LIFE) Project, focused on AgroForestry. Being exposed to different cultural and societal goals has cemented for him the value of interdisciplinary learning. Growing up in the Midwest, then to Montana town with a single 4-way stop, influences his outlook on community development.



DEVON PARSONS

Concentration: Water Sustainability and Climate Change Pronouns: she/her/hers
I graduated from UMass with a B.S. in Environmental Science in 2021. Remediation of polluted sites, whether soil or water, has been a strong interest of mine since taking phyto/bioremediation with Om Parkash Dhanker, and inorganic contaminants in soil with Baoshan Xing. Both scientists' work has pushed me to further my education in dealing with contaminated areas and sustainable ways to fix what has been done. I hope to work for the Mass. DEP or the EPA. My goal in MS3 is to deepen my understanding of governing the commons, and hydrology of forests and wetlands. Understanding policy and how biological processes work is vital in making a change in sustainability.



SIMON PEREIRA

Focus: Renewable Energy and Efficient Design Pronouns: he/him/his
I grew up in Andover, MA and attended UMass Amherst. In taking classes related to atmospheric science, I quickly became absorbed into climate change. I now look to implement sustainable solutions through retrofits and renewable technology applications. I have worked in energy management, retrofitting, air sealing, solar energy, and energy modeling and ratings. I have also run two businesses online and would love to combine entrepreneurship and sustainability in the future. Originally from Melaka, Malaysia, I have been fortunate to have visited many times and spent time backpacking throughout Asia.



ALEXIA PERIDES

Concentration: Renewable Energy and Efficient Design Pronouns: she/her/hers
I completed a B.A. in Economics at UMass Amherst in 2019. While at UMass, I worked in the Student Government Association as Secretary of Sustainability. Through an internship at the UMass Clean Energy Extension and MS3 coursework, I discovered a passion for data analytics and research, which I intend to pursue beyond this program. I'm excited to continue my studies of economic and policy driven solutions to our current social, economic and environmental climate.



ANAADI POORAN

Concentration: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Pronouns: she/her/hers
Born and raised in Trinidad and Tobago nature has always been a huge part of my life. After majoring in Chemistry and experiencing bioplastic research at the University of the West Indies, St Augustine, I knew I wanted to help develop sustainable practices regarding food packaging for Small Island Developing States (SIDS). I think the MS3 program is best suited to equip me with the interdisciplinary approach that is important to moving SIDS towards a green economy.



JAMES SIAKAKABA

Concentration: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Pronouns: he/him/his
An agronomist from Zambia, James holds a B.S. in Agriculture from the University of Zambia. As a Fulbright scholar in MS3, James is focusing on sustainable agriculture and food systems while furthering his knowledge on climate action and environmental conservation. His interest in sustainability studies stems from his work in agricultural extension working with thousands of small-scale farmers. Upon completion of MS3, James intends to work with rural communities and smallholder farmers through promotion of resilient farming practices for improved rural livelihoods and responsiveness to the impacts of climate change.



GRETCHEN SIEGCHRIST

Concentration: Urban Sustainability Pronouns: she/her/hers
I grew up on a farm in Vermont, and have lived in western Mass. for the past 16 years. My background is in communications, and I've worked for magazines and newspapers, run a video production company, and produced documentary films. I work in the UMass undergraduate admissions office, producing videos and managing digital communications projects. On the urban sustainability track, I am interested in developing skills and knowledge so that I can effectively communicate about sustainability, and turn research and best practices into reports and stories that can be easily understood and acted upon.



ERIC SIRKOVICH

Focus: Environmental Quality Pronouns: he/him/his
I grew up in Lexington, Mass. and graduated with a B.S. in Environmental Science and a minor in Chemistry from UMass Amherst in 2021. As an undergraduate, my coursework and research positions helped me discover a passion for soil science and chemistry, and how they can be combined to understand and protect the ground beneath our feet. In summer 2021, I worked as an Environmental Science Intern at VHB in Watertown, where I explored how these fields can be applied to the professional world. I'm excited to start the MS3 program and learn how to make a living by playing in the mud!



EMMA SYLVIA

Concentration: Renewable Energy and Efficient Design Pronouns: she/her/hers
I grew up in southeastern Mass. At a young age, I'd spend hours outside in imaginative play with nature as my inspiration. I still find such magic and kinship in nature. In 2019, I graduated with a B.A. in English and a minor in Sustainability from UMass Dartmouth. I come into the MS3 program with a keen interest in community-wide waste reduction strategies; green-building technology; renewable energy; and the socio-cultural and spiritual facets that underpin the viability of the field. I hope to someday share what I learn through research or teaching at the university level.



PAULA XIMENA URIBE

Focus: Environmental Quality Pronouns: she/her/hers
As an undergraduate focusing on community health, I realized the biggest threat to our communities is the degradation of our ecosystems. As an immigrant, I learned while nature is not concerned with borders, humans impose them on each other- even as climate changes makes certain corners of the world unlivable. I believe environmental justice is inevitably linked to social justice. I work as a paralegal supporting Cities and Towns across Mass on tax title and public health code enforcement. I am excited to join like-minded individuals who wish to reconcile urbanization and nature conservation.



JONAH VORSPAN-STEIN

Focus: Urban Sustainability Pronouns: he/him/his
Jonah comes to MS3 with an interest in the human side of sustainability, committed to building a strong labor-climate partnership to fight back against the dual crises of environmental destruction and inequality. He is a former culinary worker, union organizer, and Vice President of UNITE HERE! Local 164 at Hampshire College. He is currently a Senior Paralegal at Curran, Berger & Kludt immigration law, where he performs research and case work for a variety of family- and humanitarian-based immigration matters. He is also completing his M.S. at UMass' Labor Studies program.



TOMMY WEIR

Focus: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Pronouns: he/him/his
I grew up in Upstate New York, and recently graduated from Olin College of Engineering with a Mechanical Engineering degree. Throughout my undergraduate degree, I took courses in sustainability and learned about how environmental and societal issues can intensify each other. Through the MS3 program, I want to deepen my knowledge of food system issues and be able to apply my fluid mechanics knowledge to develop more sustainable irrigation systems.

