Meet Our 2023/2024 Students

SARAH HOPE
Concentration: Urban Sustainability
Pronouns: She/Her
Gaby has been teaching the Horticulture course on this summer internship program - Urban Learning Experiential Training Specialist at the Smith College Botanic Garden for over 20 years. A native New Yorker, she oversees field operations for NYC’s community gardening program, and accumulated a range of professional experience and expertise in agriculture all over the US, before she settled down in Northampton in 1999. Gaby has served on the Board of Food Northampton and played a leadership role in the development of their community farm for over a decade. Trista also works as the Graduate Assistant in the UMass Amherst Financial Aid Office.

JOEY MAISON
Concentration: Urban Sustainability
Pronouns: He/Him
Joey is an aspiring sustainability professional at the intersection of climate and energy. Born and raised in Natick, MA, Joey graduated with a BS in Environmental and Sustainability Studies from Kean State College in 2021. Subsequently, Joey took a gap year to work in the environmental and engineering consulting industry on diverse projects ranging from soil remediation to geothermal systems. Joey’s passion for driving an equitable energy transition was sparked by his involvement in two of these projects, which led him to concentrate in Renewable Energy and Efficient Design.

Bobbie LEMKOW
Concentration: Environmental Quality
Pronouns: He/Him
Bob has a background in hazardous material site assessment and remediation, and environmental compliance, auditing, and management systems. He has the MS3 program with a strong interest in soil science and conservation and wants to pursue opportunities involving Environmental Sustainability.

ALEX BUCK
Concentration: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems
Pronouns: She/Her
I graduated from UMass Amherst in the fall of 2021 with a B.S. in Public Health and Health Sciences. My interest in public health was in food security and the relationship between nutrition and health care outcomes. I expanded my studies in my final year of school, I became more interested in agriculture and agriculture. For that reason, I am hoping to learn more about agriculture and sustainability. I am looking forward to the program and getting to know my peers!

HUNZIKA IFAN
Concentration: Dual Degree MPH/MS
Pronouns: She/Her
Nayra holds a Bachelor’s degree in Computer Science with a minor in Social Development and Policy. She has worked in the digital banking and freight-tech industries in Pakistan as a product designer and UX researcher. With design at the heart of her practice, she works on co-creating solutions with the communities that she engages with. She is interested in understanding how design impacts access to and quality of water. She also loves exploring cities on foot and documenting her experiences with public transportation. She enjoys running, cooking, and painting in her free time.

FLAVIA NAMULI
Concentration: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems
Pronouns: She/Her
After graduating with a B.A. in Political Science from Makerere University in Uganda, Flavia is working on small-scale sustainable farms as an undergraduate and continued working in the fields of agriculture and food production after graduation. Subsequently, Flavia spent time working as a Fellow for the Tacoma Sunrise Movement where they found an interest in the connections between agriculture and climate activism. Flavia looks forward to developing a variety of practical skills in the field to equip herself for a more environmentally just future.

STEPH PURDUE
Concentration: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems
Pronouns: He/Him
Steph earned his associate’s degree in Biology at Hylie Community College, and his bachelor’s degree in Animal Science at UMass Amherst. As an undergraduate student, she worked for the UMass Amherst Hadley Farm where she completed her two farm and livestock management internships. After graduation, she accepted the Assistant Livestock Manager role at the UMass Amherst Hadley Farm in Rhode Island managing their cattle and sheep livestock programs. Here she gained an appreciation for sustainable, regenerative livestock production and the benefits of intensive grazing and silvopasture. Recently she returned to the Hadley Farm as the Assistant Livestock Manager. At home she raises pastured poultry, sheep, and beef cattle. Steph is pursuing a career in sustainable livestock management and education, and she is excited to expand her knowledge of sustainable practices through the MS3 program!

MEG RIZICZLO
Concentration: Environmental Quality
Pronouns: She/Her
I am from the state of Vermont and have a degree in Chemistry. I have always been interested in sustainability and took many classes devoted to environmental science in college. I was curious to learn more about my undergraduate experience. I have spent two summers working for an industrial hygiene lab that focuses on identifying air contaminants and the dangerous particulates that can be found in certain environments. In my free time I love being outdoors, hiking, and running.

JAYCE SIFUENTES
Concentration: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems
Pronouns: He/Him
Jake grew up on his farm family in Western Mass before attending Boston University to study English. Post-grad he farmed for several years, became a certified scythesman and began exploring the farms of the Midwest and to have lived in Switzerland and my home country, Lebanon. Both countries have beautiful wellfields. Joey’s passion for driving an equitable energy transition was sparked by his involvement in two of these projects, which led him to concentrate in Renewable Energy and Efficient Design.

Sarah is a lifelong advocate for the environment. She graduated from Emerson College in 2020, earning a B.A. in Writing and Environment. During her undergraduate degree, she was exposed to the sustainability “human” aspect behind Environmental Science and Sustainability Science. Trista also works as the Graduate Assistant in the UMass Amherst Financial Aid Office. Her future career plan is to enter a career which intersects food quality and security and agricultural sustainability. I’m looking forward to gaining more knowledge on the topics of sustainability at UMass, and dreams of opening her own center for sustainable living one day!

Bob has a background in hazardous material site assessment and remediation, and environmental compliance, auditing, and management systems. He has the MS3 program with a strong interest in soil science and conservation and wants to pursue opportunities involving Environmental Sustainability.

MEGS
Concentration: Environmental Quality
Pronouns: She/Her
I am from the state of Vermont and have a degree in Chemistry. I have always been interested in sustainability and took many classes devoted to environmental science in college. I was curious to learn more about my undergraduate experience. I have spent two summers working for an industrial hygiene lab that focuses on identifying air contaminants and the dangerous particulates that can be found in certain environments. In my free time I love being outdoors, hiking, and running.

JAYCE SIFUENTES
Concentration: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems
Pronouns: He/Him
Jake grew up on his farm family in Western Mass before attending Boston University to study English. Post-grad he farmed for several years, became a certified scythesman and became interested in local, seasonal cuisine. He believes food sovereignty and sustainability are integral in ensuring people’s well-being and freedom, as well as nurturing their regional cultures. He enjoys fishing, reading, and spending time with his family.