

Past Tibor T. Polgar Fellowships

The Hudson River estuary stretches from its tidal limit at the Federal Dam at Troy, New York, to its merger with the New York Bight, south of New York City. Within that reach, the estuary displays a broad transition from tidal freshwater to marine conditions that are reflected in its physical composition and the biota it supports. These characteristics present a major opportunity and challenge for researchers to describe the makeup and workings of a complex and dynamic ecosystem. The Tibor T. Polgar Fellowship Program provides funds for graduate and undergraduate students to study selected aspects of the physical, chemical, biological, and public policy realms of the estuary.

Since its inception in 1985, the program has provided approximately \$1 million in funding to 189 students and can boast the involvement of 116 advisors from 64 institutions.

The program is named in memory of Dr. Tibor T. Polgar, an estuarine biologist who was a key advisor to the Hudson River Foundation for Science and Environmental Research when the fellowship program was created. The program is conducted jointly by the Hudson River Foundation and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The fellowships are funded by the Foundation.

Past reports of the Tibor T. Polgar Fellowship program are listed below. Download the entire report or particular sections as PDF files.

[Final Reports of the Tibor T. Polgar Fellowship Program, 2020](#) – Sarah Fernald, David Yozzo, and Helena Andreyko, editors

- I. [Photo Identification and Skin Lesion Prevalence of Bottlenose Dolphins \(*Tursiops truncatus*\) in the New York–New Jersey Harbor Estuary](#) – Sarah Trabue, Howard Rosenbaum, and Melinda Rekdahl
- II. [Influence of Urban Sewage Pollution on Fish Microbiomes](#) – Emma Garrison and Gregory O’Mullan
- III. [Investigating the Distribution of *Legionella pneumophila* in Urban and Suburban Hudson River Watersheds](#) – Azlan Maqbool, Gregory O’Mullan, and M. Elias Dueker
- IV. [Contribution of the Hudson River Striped Bass Population to the Mixed Coastal Recreational Harvest at Montauk Point, NY](#) – Eva Hasegawa and Isaac Wirgin

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- V. [Use of Gadolinium to Track Sewage Effluent Through the Poughkeepsie, New York Water System](#) – Matthew Badia, Dr. Neil Fitzgerald, and Christopher Bowser
 - VI. [Is Sea Level Rise Altering Wetland Hydrology in Hudson River Valley Tidal Marshes?](#) – Sofi Courtney, Elizabeth Watson, and Franco Montalto
 - VII. [Tidal Marsh Development and Sediment Dynamics at Vanderburgh Cove, Rhinebeck NY](#) – Waverly L. Lau and Brian Yellen
 - VIII. [Presence and Trophic Level of Freshwater Jellyfish \(*Craspedacusta sowerbii*\), a Cryptic Invader in the Hudson River Basin, NY](#) – Jacob Moore and Donald J. Stewart
 - IX. [The Potential for Harmful Algal Blooms \(HABs\) in the Hudson River Estuary: Dominant Abiotic Drivers of Cyanobacterial Abundance and Toxicity with the Compounding Influence of the Invasive Water Chestnut](#) – Ellie Petraccione, Dr. Zion Klos, and Dr. Raymond Kepner
 - X. [Pharmaceutical Transport and Transformation in Trapanatans Beds](#) – Cami Plum, Stephen Hamilton, Rebekah Henry, David McCarthy, Emma Rosi, and Michael Grace
 - XI. [Spectroscopic Characterization and Quantification of Microplastics in the Hudson River](#) – Karli Sipps and Dr. Georgia Arbuckle-Keil
 - XII. [Studying the Effect of Salinity and Tide on Fecal Bacteria Transport Within Hudson River Estuary Sediments](#) – Dong Zhang and Valentina Prigiobbe
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- XIII. [Controls on Cyanobacteria Growth in the Hudson River Estuary](#) - Corey W. Rundquist and Stuart E. G. Findlay
- XIV. [Quantification of Microplastic Content in Surface Water and Sediment within Hudson River Tributaries and Marshes](#) - Jason Randall, Zofia Gagnon, and Christopher Bowser
- XV. [Size Does Matter: Exposure and Effects of Microplastics on the Eastern Oyster \(*Crassostrea virginica*\)](#) - Erika Bernal, Paul A. X. Bologna, and Beth Sharack
- XVI. [The Effect of Salinity on Eastern Oyster Reproduction in the Hudson River Estuary](#) - Kaili M. Gregory and Matthew Hare
- XVII. [Bugs on Drugs: The Influence of Redox Environments on the Microbial Degradation of Pharmaceuticals in the Hudson River Watershed](#) - Michelle L. Zeliph and Max M. Haggblom

- XVIII. [Assessing Mode of Reproduction in *Vallisneria americana* of the Hudson River, NY, and the Chesapeake Bay, MD](#) - Carrie E. Perkins and Maile C. Neel
 - XIX. [Painted Turtle Ecology in a Freshwater Tidal Marsh: Concluding Survey](#) - Virginia Caponera and Erik Kiviat
 - XX. [Human Impact on Ramshorn-Livingston, A Hudson River Freshwater Tidal Marsh](#) - Elizabeth Thompson and Dorothy Peteet
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- I. [Identifying Genetic Diversity and Population Structure in Brook Trout \(*Salvelinus fontinalis*\) Populations of the Upper Hudson River and its Tributaries](#) - Spencer A. Bruce and Jeremy Wright
 - II. [Evaluation of Water Quality and Biological Changes in Three Upper Hudson River Watershed Lakes – a Forecast of What is to Come?](#) - Crew S. Stover and Margaret H. Murphy
 - III. [Potential of Ribbed Mussels \(*Geukensia demissa*\) to Enhance Growth and Nitrogen-Removal Services in Restored Salt Marshes](#) - Jennifer Zhu, Chester Zarnoch, J. Stephen Gosnell, Mary Alldred, and Timothy J. Hoellein
 - IV. [Variation in Microplastic Content of Marsh Sediment Due to the Atlantic Ribbed Mussel \(*Geukensia demissa*\), Jamaica Bay, NY](#) - Shannon Jenkins and Brett Branco
 - V. [Factors Affecting the Growth and Establishment of *Vallisneria americana* in the Hudson River, NY](#) - Anne Carew and Katharina Engelhardt
 - VI. [Aerosolization of Bacteria and Toxins from Harmful Cyanobacteria Blooms](#) - Christopher J. Hulbert and Robyn L. Smyth
 - VII. [Bacterial and Viral Source Tracking in the Pocantico and Sparkill Creek Watersheds](#) - Christina Joseph and Bernadette Connors
 - VIII. [Street Runoff as a Source of Fecal Indicator Bacteria to Urban Embayments](#) - Angel Montero and Gregory O’Mullan
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- I. [Utilizing DNA Sequencing and Land Use Data for an Improved Understanding of Fecal Contamination in Hudson River Tributaries](#) - Elizabeth P. Farrell and Gregory D. O’Mullan
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- II. [Modeling Potential Phytoplankton Blooms in the Hudson River Estuary: Challenges and Solutions](#) - Samuel A. Nadell and Robert W. Howarth
 - III. [Submersed Aquatic Vegetation in a Hudson River Watershed: The Great Swamp of New York](#) - Chris Cotroneo and John Waldman
 - IV. [Induction of Metallothionein in Grass Shrimp \(*Palaemonetes pugio*\) Exposed to Naturally Occurring Metals](#) - Abhishek Naik and William G. Wallace
 - V. [Quantifying the Effects of TCDD Exposure on Early Life-Stage Cardiac Gene Expression of Atlantic Tomcod by RT-PCR](#) - Kristy A. Vitale and Isaac Wirgin
 - VI. [Perched Culverts' Effects on Downstream Eel Habitat in Hudson River Streams](#) - Marissa J. Porter, Zofia Gagnon, Robert Schmidt, and Christopher Bowser
 - VII. [Effects of Tributaries in the Transport of Microplastics in the Hudson Valley Watershed](#) - Ian Krout, Zofia Gagnon, David Conover, and Christopher Bowser
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- I. [Testing Environmental DNA Techniques to Assess American Eel Populations in the Bronx River](#) - Jessica Miranda, Elizabeth Alter and John Waldman
 - II. [Ecology of Painted Turtles in a Freshwater Tidal Marsh, Tivoli North Bay, New York](#) - Reminy J. Bacon and Erik Kiviat
 - III. [Effects of Perched Culverts on Upstream and Downstream Eel Populations in Hudson River Streams](#) - Richard Brase, Zofia Gagnon, Robert Schmidt, Christopher Bowser, and Andrew Meyer
 - IV. [Influence of a Hudson River Tributary on the Bacterial Colonization of Riparian Vegetation](#) - Beckett Lansbury and M. Elias Dueker
 - V. [Reconstructing the Paleoecology of Haverstraw Tidal Marshlands](#) - Lucy Gill and Dorothy Peteet
 - VI. [Protecting an Upper Hudson Heritage Lake: Assessing the Need for Fish Barrier Installation at Wolf Lake, Newcomb, New York](#) - Samouel Beguin, Karin Limburg, and Stacy McNulty
 - VII. [The Combined Effects of Hypoxia and Contaminants on the Early Life-Stages of Shortnose Sturgeon, *Acipenser brevirostrum*](#) - Carlye McConnell and Christopher Chambers
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 - VIII. [The Effects of Dams on Densities and Sizes of American Eels in the Bronx River](#) - Richard DeMarte, John Waldman and Michael S. Bednarski
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 - VII. [Hypoxia Tolerance of the Invertebrates Associated with Water-chestnut Beds \(*Trapa natans* L.\) in the Hudson River](#) - Mariana Carolina Teixeira and David L. Strayer
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- IV. [Temperature as a Driver of a Size-Structure Shift in Zebra Mussels \(*Dreissena polymorpha*\) in the Hudson River](#) - Jessica A. Gephart, Michael Pace, and David Strayer
- V. [Who Controls Whom? Linking Predator-Prey Dynamics Between Mud Crabs and Juvenile Oysters to Restoration Efforts in the New York Metropolitan Region](#) - Rebecca E. Kulp and Bradley J. Peterson
- VI. [Fish Parasites in the Hudson River Estuary's Littoral Habitats: A Prelude to Restoration](#) - Emily C. Ogburn, Karin E. Limburg, and Christopher M. Whipps

- VII. Investigation of Estuarine Sediment as a Reservoir for Sewage Associated Bacteria - Erin Schneider and Gregory D. O'Mullan
 - VIII. Developing a Nonlethal Field Method for Determining Lipid Content of American Eels (*Anguilla rostrata*) - Sean O. I. Swift, Robert E. Schmidt, and David R. Myers
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 - IV. Assessment of Temporal and Geographic Population Structuring of *Phragmites australis* Along the Hudson River Using Microsatellite DNA Markers - Daniel Lipus, Joseph Stabile and Isaac Wirgin
 - V. Pilot Study for Laser Ablation and Stable Isotope Analysis of Feathers, Eggshells, and Prey of Great Blue Herons Sampled Across an Urbanization Gradient in the Mid-Hudson River Valley - Jill Mandel and Karin Limburg
 - VI. Diet of American Eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) Elvers in a Hudson River Tributary - Leah Pitman and Robert Schmidt
 - VII. The Effects of Salinity Intrusion on the Biogeochemistry of Hudson River Tidal Freshwater Wetlands - Robert Osborne, Stuart Findlay and Melody Bernot
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 - VI. Impact of Silver Nanoparticle Exposure on Crayfish (*Orconectes virilis*) Growth, Chemistry and Physiology in Controlled Laboratory Experiment and Hudson River Ecosystem - Allen Clayton and Zofia Gagnon
 - VII. Quantifying Larval Fish Habitat in Shoreline and Shallow Waters of the Tidal Hudson River - Claire E. Stouthamer and Mark B. Bain
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 - III. Intensive Rotational Grazing of Romney Sheep as a Control for the Spread of *Persicaria perfoliata* - Caroline Girard and Gary Kleppel
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 - V. Demographic Analysis of the Jamaica Bay Diamondback Terrapin (*Malaclemys terrapin*) Population: Implications for Survival in an Urban Habitat - Alexandra Kanonik and Russell Burke
 - VI. Evaluating Nest Protectors for Turtle Conservation - Shahriar Rahman and Russell Burke
 - VII. A Native Species, the American Eel (*Anguilla rostrata*), as a Biological Control for an Invasive Crayfish (*Orconectes rusticus*) in Tributaries to the Hudson River, NY - Sarah Mount, Catherine O'Reilly and David Strayer
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 - III. Capturing the Nutrient Overenrichment-Eutrophication-Hypoxia Cycle at Newton Creek
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 - VII. [Using Telemetry to Assess Foraging Ecology and Habitat Use of Black-Crowned Night Herons \(*Nycticorax nycticorax*\) in New York City](#) - Andrew James Bernick and Richard R. Veit
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