

Student Spotlight

Vanessa Brotske - Environmental Science & Policy Major

What is your best advice to current students?

Take care of yourself! Get some sleep, eat a good meal, exercise, and spend time with your friends. Putting your health at risk for a grade is never smart.



What makes UWGB special?

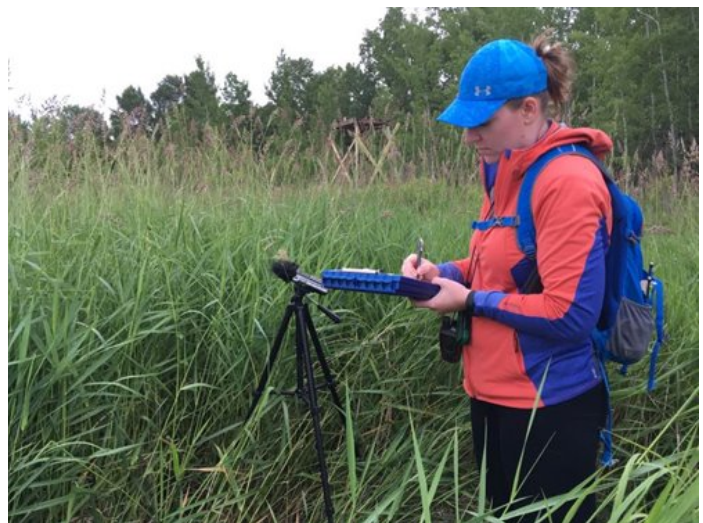
UWGB is special because of the vast opportunities available to students outside of the classroom. In the last two years, I have been able to participate in frog and bird surveys in the Upper Peninsula, help with chick banding of the endangered piping plover, monitor populations of the federally threatened dune thistle, conduct research on the federally threatened dwarf lake iris, and participate in invasive species removal. Almost every week I am outside doing something new!

What is a cause you are passionate about?

I have always been passionate about education. Before enrolling in UWGB I was a high school biology teacher. I now am a TA for Bio 202. My goal has always been the same: make learning meaningful and fun! Sometimes students struggle with making connections between what we do in the classroom and real life. I love teaching lab because it reinforces difficult concepts with hands-on learning. It is always rewarding to see students finally understand a topic they have been struggling with.

Why did you choose to attend UWGB?

Before getting my first teaching job, I always threw around the idea of enrolling in the master's program in Environmental Science & Policy. I was drawn to this program because I enjoyed the environmental studies and ecology classes I took at UWO and wanted to expand my knowledge in those areas. After teaching for two years I decided it was now or never if I ever wanted to obtain an advanced degree. With UWGB only being a 30-minute drive from my house, applying to the program was a no-brainer. UWGB has become a second home and I am so happy that I am here!



Who is your favorite professor or staff member and why?

Dr. Wolf has been a source of inspiration and support since I arrived at UWGB. She is a great instructor, advisor, and is involved in multiple projects. Even with numerous other time commitments, she still makes it her top priority to connect with students and provide guidance. Dr. Wolf always pushes me to give it my all and keeps me focused on my aspirations and goals. My time at UWGB has been nothing short of amazing because of the time I have spent working with her!