

# Association of State Wetland Managers Annual State/Tribal/Federal Coordination Meeting

*Adaptation & Resiliency for the Advancement of  
Wetland Science Policy and Practice*

Virtual Meeting  
April 12-15, 2021

## JON A. KUSLER STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES



Aloha, my name is **Jessica Idle**, and I am a current graduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa studying Natural Resources and Environmental Management (NREM). I completed my undergraduate degree in NREM, specializing in Wildlife Ecology and Management. My graduate research is focused on the survival and reproduction of an endangered, native waterbird, the 'ae'o, or Hawaiian Stilt. The objectives of this research are to illuminate temporal trends in reproductive rates and identify critical life stages that can jointly be assessed to help inform wetland managers in their selection of wetland restoration and management practices to improve productivity for this species. Ultimately, my research contributes to the efforts of many in Hawai'i that are working to expand and restore wetlands through state and federal protected areas and through biocultural restoration, with the goal of recovering this and other endangered waterbird species while restoring human connections to wetland spaces.



**Xuanshu Lin** is a Chinese international student at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign pursuing a dual degree in Sustainable Design and Urban Studies & Planning with a minor in Natural Resource Conservation from the academic year of 2019 to 2023. So far by his Sophomore year, he has not only entered the James Scholar Honors Program, but also two times on the Dean's List. He viewed environmental issues as something invisible but constantly reveal themselves in a timely manner. Therefore, identifying and resolving environmental problems with sustainable ideas will be critical strategies to tackle future environmental issues. As a student, Xuanshu wishes to gain a rough idea of what his future career would look like from the four focus areas of the meetings.



**Sarah Pawliczak** is a graduate student with Oregon State University enrolled in the online Master of Natural Resources program. Wetlands have, and continue to be, an especially important and interesting topic to her. During her undergraduate career, she completed a project that consisted of a GIS analysis of wetlands in the conterminous US using satellite data to determine the abundance and rate of change of wetlands over a 14-year period. Currently, she is working on her capstone project which involves suggesting updates to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Freshwater Wetlands Regulation Guidelines on Compensatory Mitigation. She is looking forward to attending this year's Association of State Wetland Managers State/Tribal/Federal Coordination meeting.

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