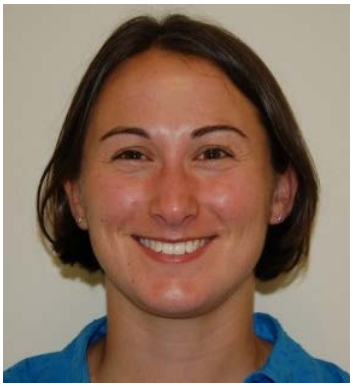
Alisa Phillips-Griggs, Water Quality and Projects Coordinator

Alisa Phillips-Griggs is Water Quality & Projects Coordinator for the Farmington River Watershed Association. She has a diverse background in the natural sciences and is fluent in Potamology (the study of rivers) from hydrology to aquatic entomology. She holds a B.S. in Geology from Michigan State University and a Master's in Geology (paleontology) from Southern Methodist University which qualifies her as a "Jill of all trades and Master of one".

She honed her water craft identifying vernal pool invertebrates for UCONN and subsequently working in the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Ambient Water Quality Monitoring Program. Previous to her foray into the world of water, Alisa taught university ecology, biology and geology courses while homeschooling her two sons.

Since joining the Farmington River Watershed Association staff in March 2006 she has expanded FRWA's water quality monitoring program to include an in-house bacteria testing laboratory, water temperature monitoring, comprehensive macroinvertebrate monitoring and has initiated numerous programs designed to improve water quality including the State's first unwanted medication collection and multiple riparian buffer remediation projects.

When not actively working to preserve and protect the watershed, Alisa is out playing in it via hiking, skiing, paddling and sculling on the river.



Mary C. Arico, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Civil and Biomedical Engineering; Assistant Director, CT Space Grant Consortium

B.S. Biomedical Engineering, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Ph. D., University of California-Davis

Mary C. Arico, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in Biomedical Engineering in the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture. Her research interests include biomechanics and prosthetic design, specifically sustainable design for developing countries.

Dr. Arico is also the Associate Director of the Connecticut Space Grant Consortium. She is the founder of Mad About Science, a STEM immersion summer program for middle school girls, and has been involved in a number of K-12 outreach programs whose goal is to encourage girls/women to follow a path toward STEM careers.

Heather McGuiness, Senior Clinical Scientist, Unilever, R & D

B.S. Biology, Sacred Heart University; M.S. Biology, Fordham University; M.S. Human Nutrition, University of New Haven

Heather McGuiness in a Senior Clinical Scientist at Unilever, R&D. While an undergrad, she was an intern at Unilever as a formulation chemist. After graduate school, Heather worked as an Associate Scientist at Genaissance Pharmaceuticals. While there, she processed and coordinated the isolation of DNA from various sample types (blood, buccal swab, sample collection card). She left Genaissance Pharmaceuticals to pursue other opportunities at Unilever. She joined the Bioscience Expertise Group where she wrote and validated programs for all high throughout automation. She evaluated compounds and chemical libraries for validated targets using techniques and assays such as: Membrane binding, Mushroom Tyrosinase Inhibition, Solubility, BCA protein, Lactate Dehydrogenase Toxicity, Keratinocyte Cell Proliferation, and Stratum Corneum Ceramide from Tape Strips. Heather is currently a member of the Clinical team. She is responsible for planning, designing, executing and analyzing results from internal and external human studies. Her areas of expertise are skin cleansing and shave. In addition to this work, Heather was also an adjunct Professor at NVCC where she taught Biology.

She has participated in several Unilever sponsored community outreach projects including Global Hand Washing Day. On this day, Heather went to several schools talking with kids (preschool – grade 6) about the importance of washing their hands.

Deirdre D'Amore Mourtinho

Deirdre Moutinho serves as the recruitment and retention specialist for the NVCC's Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center. She is a champion for all students but is focused on promoting manufacturing as a viable career option for incoming women in her program. Deirdre works in collaboration with The Connecticut Community Colleges' College of Technology's Regional Center for Next Generation Manufacturing (COT-RCNGM) and CBIA with funding from the National Science Foundation to promote the "You Belong: Women in Manufacturing" project.

Darlene Blumenthal

Naugatuck Valley Community College, Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center (AMTC), 2013 graduate

Darlene was one of six women who began the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Certificate program in the fall of 2012. She was an outstanding student and role model for her peers. Her leadership skills were recognized by her classmates when they elected her to be the president of the Advanced Manufacturing Club. Academically, she had the top GPA amongst the women earning her a place in the President's top ten Award Program, Women's Heritage Month award and she received the Statewide Advanced Manufacturing Centers Student Award. Darlene is now employed as a Machine Operator/Inspector/Assembly/ Super Woman for Tier One Manufacturing in Newtown, CT

Dr. Danielle Edwards, Yale University Associate Research Scientist. Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Dr. Edwards studies the evolution of a range of vertebrate taxa focusing on reconstructing the biogeographic history of regions and understanding how a species' habitat shapes its evolution. Her research has focused on a number of Australian amphibian and reptile species, and currently she works on Galapagos tortoises with Dr. Adalgisa Caccone at Yale University. Dr. Edwards holds a PhD in Zoology/Evolutionary Biology from The University of Western Australia. She has also held postdoctoral positions at The Australian National University, University of Michigan and Yale Unversity. Much of her work has involved long fieldtrips in remote parts of Australia and the Galapagos Islands. Dr. Edwards also has expertise in ecological, morphological (species form and shape) and genetic analyses to help me understand how species and ecological communities evolve together. She has been involved in the Women Evolving Biological Sciences Program through the National Evolutionary Synthesis Center, is

currently a graduate student mentor in the Women in Science at Yale program, and mentors the research of two young female science students at Yale.

Sandra Eddy is the Department Chair for Computer Information Systems & Business Computer Applications at Naugatuck Valley Community College in Waterbury, CT. The department, staffed by 30 faculty members, is responsible for technology education and curriculum development in rapidly emerging and changing technology areas, delivering 350 credit hours per year. As a faculty member, she teaches Project Management, Systems Analysis and Design, as well as introductory computing classes. An active leader and committee member for the Center for Teaching, Ms. Eddy delivers workshops, with a keen interest in student engagement. Current workshop titles include “Flipping the Classroom”, “Journal Group - Taking Risks in your Teaching”, “The ‘7 Habits of Highly Effective People’ Applied Framework for Online Learning and Delivery”, and “Time is the Enemy “.

Ms. Eddy spent fifteen years with Digital Equipment Corporation in numerous positions in corporate finance, accounting, and account management and consulting. She was a team member on complex systems integration technology projects with clients including Aetna, Pfizer, General Re, US Surgical and others.

Ms. Eddy is a graduate of Colby College holding a BA in Economics and a BA Administrative Science; she earned an MBA from Babson College, F.W. Olin Graduate School. Her professional credentials include CompTIA Project+™ certification, Project Management Institute (PMI) membership, and user group leadership with Blackboard™ technology educational support.