



# New York Water Environment Association WEF Report

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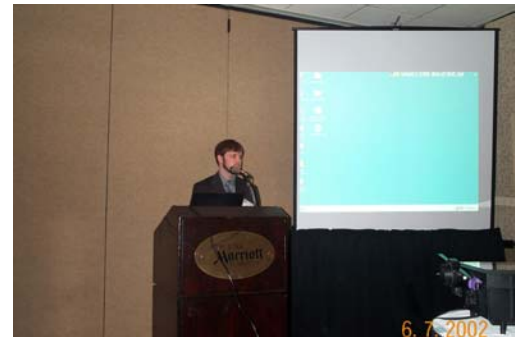
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## Student Dave Kuhn bags third prize at the NYWEA Conference in New York City

By Ashish Kumar Sahu

David Kuhn, a final year Masters student from the Environmental Engineering Department here at Clarkson University, received the third prize at the 75th Annual New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA) conference held in New York. Dave was one of six students presenting during the University Forum Session held on Tuesday, February 11 at the Marriott Marquis in Times Square. This is the second time in two consecutive years that Clarkson students have taken a prize home from the conference. Last year, a Clarkson graduate and two undergraduate students took the first and second prizes, respectively.

Kuhn's paper entitled, "Photolysis of Hexacyanoferrate" under the advising of Dr. Thomas Young showed how the results obtained, would assist engineers and scientists in understanding the ultimate fate of hexacyanoferrate (more commonly known



*Student Dave Kuhn presents at the annual New York Water Environment Association Conference*

as iron cyanide) and will be a useful tool for designing a wetland treatment system.

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## Earth Day Effort

By Lauren Crocker

Although it was a typical dreary day in the north country, NYWEA still wanted to take part in some earth day related activities. Cleaning up garbage in the rain wasn't a popular option, so a few NYWEA members decided to do something that would keep them a little more dry. A recent problem, so to speak, with the Recycling program has been that there have been more non-redeemables than redeemables placed in the bins. With no way to really recy-

cle these cans and bottles, they usually just went in the trash. Well, no one thought this was very beneficial, so NYWEA wanted to find *some way* to reuse these bottles. Then, just a other day, professor Amy Zander mentioned that waste stream takes bottles to make roads. Roads you say? Yes, roads! You see, they grind up the bottles into little bits and make fill for roadbeds. Pretty cool, huh? What was once garbage will soon be part of the very roads we drive on.

## Kuhn Places Third at NYWEA Conference

The past vice president of the NYWEA Clarkson chapter, Mrs. Anahita Williamson a Ph.D. student, also present at the conference attended the NYWEA officers meeting. The meeting lasted for about two hours. Discussions in the meeting revealed that more participation was required by Clarkson students especially the undergraduate students for design competition. More discussions will be held at the NYWEA meetings. It was also noted that Clarkson's NYWEA chapters was one of the most active chapters amongst all others present.

Another NYWEA member, Anahita Williamson, currently a Ph.D. student in Environmental Engineering - attended the NYWEA Officers Meeting at the conference. The goal of this meeting was to meet other representatives from schools such as RPI, Manhattan College, and University of Buffalo in order to discuss the activities of each local NYWEA chapter. It was great to find that Clarkson's chapter is one of the most active and participates in a variety of activities. New ideas for

membership initiatives were also discussed, along with student involvement in NYWEA's Design Competition and Student Technical Paper Competition. More information on the conference and these activities will be given at the NYWEA meeting.



*Dave, Kuhn, John Jeris, and Grant Heslin at the Conference (picture from NYWEA website).*

## Adopt-a-School Continues to be a Success

By Seth Livermore

The Adopt-A-School program is one of NYWEA's most successful events each year. The program consists of going to the local Potsdam Junior-Senior High School and demonstrating various experiments to the Natural Resources and AP Environmental classes.

There are three primary experiments that are shown to the students each year. The first experiment is the "Gatorade experiment." Essentially resin is added to the Gatorade. The Gatorade is then passed through a common coffee filter, leaving behind the dye, which causes the Gatorade to lose its color. This experiment teaches the students the basic process of removing harmful chemicals (i.e. the Gatorade coloring) from our drinking water.

The second experiment is the "density experiment." For this experiment, materials (such as plastic, wood, and screws) are added into a combination of different fluids, which have different densities. The materials will float, submerge, or sink into the varying fluids. This visually shows the students how substances with different densities behave in various types of fluids, which is used everyday in our wastewater treatment plant.

The third experiment is the "cabbage experi-

ment." To perform the experiment hot water is added into a zip-lock bag containing the cabbage. The water is then added to 4 separate Dixie cups. Fluids with different pH's (such as vinegar, soda, baking soda, etc.) are added to each of the cups. The cabbage basically serves as a pH tester. By adding the different fluids, the cabbage water will turn colors ranging from pink (acidic) to blue (basic). This experiment teaches the students how cabbage can be used as a crude pH tester.

Adopt-A-School is a great way to get involved in the community and introduce high school students to environmental aspects that they might not know about. After all, in them possibly lies the next generation of Clarkson Civil Engineers. And of course members of NYWEA!



## Benches to be Back Next Year

By Lauren Crocker

Due to some unfortunate vandalism, the concrete benches were destroyed within days of their arrival to the woods behind Moore House Dormitory. The concrete ends are still in good shape and will be stored inside for the summer. Good news is that the Center for the Environment has agreed to donate money to buy the plastic lumber that was broken. ECO has also offered to donate their time to help fix the benches. Once the benches are finished (again) a plaque will be placed on the benches with a quote and possibly some of the organizations who help put the benches together.



*NYWEA Member Lindsey Wilkins finishes off the molds for the concrete ends of the benches.*

## Adopt-a-Bin Going Well

By Lauren Crocker

This semester was the start of a new program for NYWEA called Adopt-a-Bin. The first adoptee was Diane Brouwer, a staff member here at Clarkson. She put up two bins in the Science Center and is collecting the cans to donate the money to a local boy scout troop. After a few placement adjustments, collecting has been steady, though not exceptional. It turns out many students at Clarkson are drinking non-carbonated beverages, which of course are not redeemable. However, it is still better to collect these cans and bottles than to have them fill a landfill. Now this dilemma poses a question: Should all cans and bottles be redeemable?





**New York Water  
Environment Association  
The Clarkson University  
Chapter**

We are on the web!  
[www.clarkson.edu/~nywea/](http://www.clarkson.edu/~nywea/)

**Come join us!**

NYWEA is a professional organization geared towards environmental engineers and scientists, but anyone with an interest in environmental issues should feel free to join. There are usually meetings about twice a month where we have professional or student speakers and go over any events that are coming up. NYWEA does many things on campus, for example, organizing and running the redeemable recycling program. Although, NYWEA also takes part in activities with the community as well. Every year we make a trip to the Potsdam High School and run experiments with the students. We call it the Adopt-a-School program. If any of this sounds like something you might enjoy please come and join us.