

## Jeffrey Niedermeyer

### Undergraduate

Graduated Autumn 2013

Jeff Niedermeyer grew up in Cleveland, OH where he discovered his passion for cars and began drag racing at the age of 13. Jeff always enjoyed learning how things worked and this passion eventually drew him to the sciences. In the fall of 2010 Jeff began his first semester at UT. While attending UT, Jeff began to explore his love of ecology and herpetology (the study of reptiles). Jeff transferred into the Department of Environmental Sciences after his second year and immediately found classes and peers that reflected his passion for science. Here Jeff found his favorite class, Field Ecology, and began to extend his education beyond the classroom. In his third year Jeff began a summer internship with Dr. Daryl Dwyer working on sustainable agriculture and exploring techniques which would reduce the amount of phosphorus and *E. coli* that might enter Lake Erie. During this time Jeff also became involved with the Building Ohio's Sustainable Sustainable Energy Future (BOSEF) group where he helped design and build an anaerobic digester that would improve biomass energy production.

"The Department of Environmental Sciences not only provided me with the foundation to be successful in my field, but also lifelong bonds and friendships I will cherish for years to come."

In his final year, Jeff took a position at the Stranahan Arboretum where he managed the arboretum's public outreach campaign, worked with fellow students on new sustainable agriculture techniques and spent his free time exploring the reptiles and amphibians native to the 100-year old forest. Jeff also worked part-time collecting and analyzing water samples from the Lake Erie beaches at the University of Toledo's Lake Erie Center (LEC). With all of Jeff's "outside the classroom" experience he became well-versed in plant identification, water sampling techniques and microbiology. Jeff graduated in December, 2013 and used his acquired skills to get a job in Raleigh, NC working in a microbiology lab for the Food Bio Processing and Nutrition Department at NC State.

