

## Justin Chaffin

### **M.S. (2009) and PhD Biology (2013)**

As a UT graduate student, Justin researched the role of nitrogen, phosphorus and turbidity in cyanobacterial blooms in Lake Erie. During his time in DES, he worked as a teaching and research assistant, served several terms as President of Environmental Graduate Students and was awarded a National Science Foundation Teaching Fellowship.



After his Ph.D., he took the position of research coordinator at Stone Laboratory, Ohio State University's Lake Erie field station. There, he oversees research activities and equipment including arranging stays for visiting researchers and aiding their projects. He coordinates

the Charter Boat Captain program where six captains collect water samples each week after fishing and analyzes those samples. Justin is also responsible for organizing the summer undergraduate research program, which allows students to conduct research. His own research continues to focus on understanding the triggers of harmful algal bloom formation and microcystin production in the western and central basins of Lake Erie.

“The experience I gained working with several labs in the Department of Environmental Sciences and the Lake Erie Center gave me the skillset needed to operate my own laboratory and oversee research programs. The faculty in DES use many different tools (from analytical chemistry to molecular tools to ecosystem modeling) to study the environment, and I have incorporated those tools into my research programs. Being able to work at all levels of biology with different tools opened many doors for me since graduation”.