



# BUFFALO STATE

The State University of New York



## Aquaculture and Conservation program for Riverside Academy sophomores



*Photo in the left: Dave Spiering, Niagara River Restoration Project Manager, NYS Parks*

*Photo in the right: Mike Goehle, US Fish and Wildlife (USFWS)*

As we look forward to warmer weather and boat season, Riverside Academy sophomores in the Aquaculture and Conservation program remember the journey they took on River Queen this past September. Departing from Canalside and travelling up the Buffalo River towards Tifft Nature Preserve, students learned about Buffalo's industrial history. Students craned their necks to get a better view of the towering grain elevators as they discovered how prolonged industrial practices have damaged the river's ecosystem.

Aboard the River Queen with us were Katie Hastings and Brian Haas of Buffalo State's Great Lakes Center. They demonstrated several water quality testing techniques, using equipment such as a secchi disk, a YSI sonde, and a zooplankton net.





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Once back at Canalside, students had the opportunity to have breakout conversations with several professionals in the Environmental Science and Policy field. Our guests were Emily Theil (PRISM), Jay Burney (Our Outer Harbor Coalition), Mike Goehle (USFWS), Dave Spiering (Niagara River Restoration Project Manager, NYS Parks) and Josh Konovitz (Applied Ecological Services). In small groups, students met the discussed relevant challenges including invasive species control, sturgeon tagging, and the human impact on the Times Beach Preserve. The experience was a wonderful introduction to the many careers students will be prepared for through the Aquaculture and Conservation program.



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