

Invitation to seminar

Lecture by Prof. Jacob W. VanHouten

Fulbright Professor

University Center, Biology/Environmental Science,
Delta College, Michigan, USA

Visiting Professor of CENAKVA (RP4)



Title

**„Great Lakes in Peril: US and Canada
history of collaborative efforts to protect
Freshwater “**

Date
&
Place

Friday, 11th July 2025, 13:00 – 14:00

MEVPIS, Na Valše 207, Vodňany

Abstract

The Great Lakes, comprising Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario, are a vital shared resource between the United States and Canada, representing the largest group of freshwater lakes on Earth by total area (roughly 20%). Both nations have recognized the importance of maintaining the water quality and addressing the threat of invasive species within these lakes.

Over the years, a robust framework of bilateral cooperation has emerged to tackle these challenges. The cornerstone of this effort is the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA), first signed in 1972. This agreement has been pivotal in guiding joint efforts to reduce pollution, monitor water quality, and restore the health of the Great Lakes ecosystem. Regular updates to the agreement have allowed both countries to address emerging issues and adapt to new scientific findings.

Many Invasive species, such as the zebra mussel, “Asian” carp (4 species) and sea lamprey, pose significant threats to the Great Lakes' biodiversity and water quality. Both countries have committed to coordinated actions to prevent the introduction and spread of these harmful species. Programs such as the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and the Invasive Species Centre play critical roles in research, monitoring, and implementing control measures.



Jacob W. VanHouten

Fulbright Professor of Environmental Science/Biology

Environmental Technology Program Coordinator

Science and Math Division/Biology Discipline

Delta College, University Center



Appointments

2020-2021*	Fulbright Scholar Recipient, Masaryk Univ., Brno, CZ
2012-Present	Professor, Biology/Environmental Science, Delta College
2010	Invited Professor, Charles University, Prague Czech Rep.
2006- 2011	Associate Prof., Environmental Science, Delta College
2006- Present	Reservist- EHP (Environmental Historic Preservation) FEMA/Homeland Security
2004- 2006	Biology Department Chair, Delta College
2003- Present	Visiting/Invited Prof., Biology Dept., Central Mich. Univ.
2000- 2004	Assistant Prof., Biology Department, Delta College
1998-2000	Chem. Proc./Env. Tech. Program Coord., Delta College
1998- 2000	Instructor - Chem. Process/Env. Tech., Delta College
1995-1998	Manager, EH&S Compliance/Training, Delta College
1995-1998	Adjunct Faculty, Env. Tech., Chem. Tech, Delta College
1989-1995	Senior Project Manager, TMI Inc., Mt. Pleasant, MI
1986-1989	Water Quality Specialist/EH&S Training Director,
1986-1989	Visiting Prof., Ind. Engineering Dept., Cent. Mich. Univ.

Publications Publications Most Closely Related to Project

1. D. Stedtfeld , Tiffany M. Stedtfeld , Hassen Waseem, Meridith Fitschen-Brown Guo, Benli Chai , Maggie R. Williams , Trevor Shook , Amanda Logan , Ally Graham, Jong-Chan Chae , Woo-Jun Sul, Jacob VanHouten , James R. Cole, Gerben J. Zylstra , James M. Tiedje , Brad L. Upham , Syed A. Hashsham, Ph.D., 2017. [Isothermal assay targeting class 1 integrase gene for environmental surveillance of antibiotic resistance markers](#) *Journal of Environmental Management*.
2. VanHouten, J. W. 2014. [Large watershed management and restoration: dioxin sediment remediation case study](#) *International Journal of Environmental Studies*.
3. Voss, H.M.; VanWert, M.E.; Polega, J.R.; VanHouten, J.W.; Martin, A.L.; and Karpovich, D.S. 2013. [Implications of Hypoxia on the North Branch of the Kawkawlin River](#). *Journal of Great Lakes Research*.
4. VanHouten, J.W. 2012. ["Remediation of River Sediments Containing Dioxins and Other Chemical Compounds as Part of a Large Watershed Restoration Project"](#) ASTM STP Contaminated Sediments: Restoration of Aquatic Environment.
5. [Environmental Science: A study of Interrelationships](#) (11th edition textbook) 2008; Enger/Smith: McGraw Hill publisher; contributing author, chapters 3, 15, 18).
6. VanHouten, J. W. 2003. ["ASTM Phase I Site Assessments"](#) Proceedings of the Sixth International Symposium & Exhibition on Environmental Contamination in Central & Eastern Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States, Prague, Czech Republic.