

# David L. Blodgett

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## PROFILE

My great interest in rivers grew from my love of paddle-sports. Designing and building kayaks in middle and high school taught me how to learn independently by research and experimentation. My first real job was in canoe and kayak specialty retail where I reached the level of manager and buyer. I briefly worked in custom remodeling as a laborer. For two semesters, I worked full time on my undergraduate degree in civil engineering which led to a research assistantship in sediment transport and bank erosion. My experience leading the highly successful UW - Madison concrete canoe team has given me a lot of perspective and leadership skills I would not have gained otherwise. I am currently working on my masters in water resources engineering. I plan on graduating in January of 2010 with hopes of working for an engineering firm or government agency in a water resources related capacity.

## EXPERIENCE

### **Field and Laboratory Research Assistant, Water Group: UW-Madison Civil and Environmental Engineering; Madison, WI— March 2006 - Present.**

Current work involves distributed rainfall runoff modeling of a Northern Wisconsin watershed in order to prioritize landscape placement of flow intensity reducing practices. GIS processing of landscape variables and rain gauge correction of radar data are two focus areas. As an undergrad, I conducted experiments in a mobile bed sediment flume. Field work included installation and repair of experimental stream alignment modifying flat plate vanes. The purpose of this work is to protect quickly eroding clay bluffs in an effort to improve trout habitat.

### **Teaching Assistant, UW-Madison Civil and Environmental Engineering; Madison, WI— Aug. 2007 – May 2008.**

Taught a laboratory section of CEE310 fluid mechanics in fall of 2007. Included some lecturing, problem solving, and laboratory measurements. TA for CEE291 problem solving using computer tools, helping to develop curriculum for the new course.

### **Project Manager - Co-chair, UW-Madison Concrete Canoe Team; Madison, WI—August 2005 – June 2008.**

Led hull design and form construction, paddled, contributed to design report, and participated in business presentation on 2006 national champion concrete canoe team. Led all components of subsequent 2007 concrete canoe national champion team as project manager. Co-chair of 2008 team. Concrete canoe experience has given me invaluable team-leadership experiences.

### **Carpenter's Assistant, TDS Custom Construction; Madison, WI—October 2004 - August 2005.**

Was primarily involved in demolition, labor, site cleanliness, and truck driving. TDS is a fast paced custom remodeling company. I gained a work ethic that will be an asset to all future work.

### **Manager - Buyer, Carl's Paddlin' Canoe and Kayak Center; Madison, WI — May 2000 - October 2004.**

Started as sales and rentals help. Through the three and a half years working at Carl's, my responsibilities included, buying, selling, and repairing, canoes kayaks and gear as well as overall store management. The main skills gained at this job were in client relations.

## EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin Madison — BS Civil and Environmental Engineering 2002-2008  
University of Wisconsin Madison — MS Water Resources Engineering 2008-2010 (expected)

## NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Design and construction engineer, paddler and technical presenter for national champion concrete canoe team 2006.  
Project manager, lead engineer, paddler and technical presenter for national champion concrete canoe team 2007.  
Project manager for national champion wastewater treatment plant design team in Metcalf and Eddy Student Design Competition.

## SKILLS

I've always had very strong spatial, mechanical, and physical skills. My work and hobby experience has given me the ability and skill to handle a wide variety of projects: from labor intensive field work, to tedious computer based design, to data collection system setup and deployment. As an undergrad engineering student, I focused heavily on environmental fluid mechanics and hydrology. I completed an undergraduate-independent study which involved scale modeling and redesign of whitewater features on the Wausau Whitewater Course. As a graduate student, I have continued my focus on water resources. My graduate research focuses on distributed rainfall runoff modeling to prioritize landscape placement of runoff detention practices in a northern WI watershed. NEXRAD radar processing and GIS analysis of watershed parameters are two skills I gained through this project. I constantly strive for a better understanding of rivers from geomorphic, conceptual, hydraulic, and hydrologic perspective.