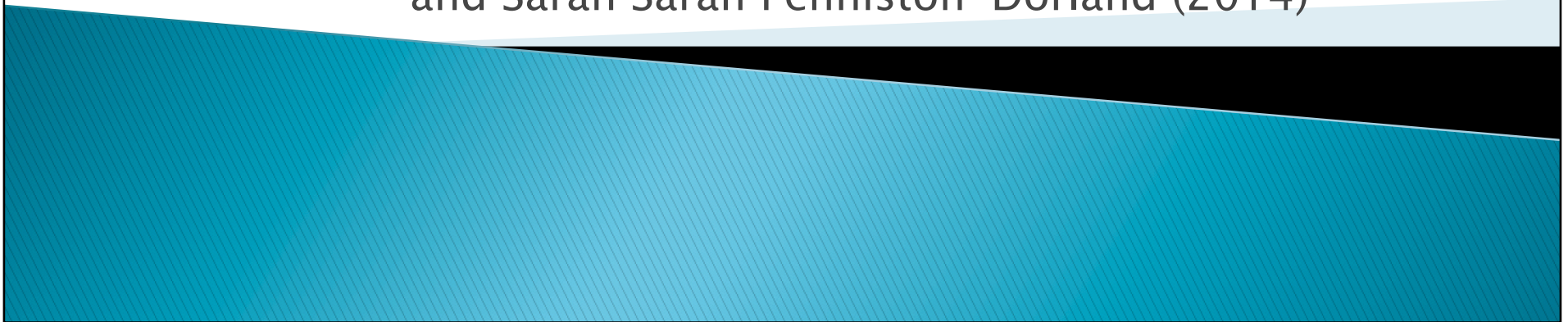


Setting the Scope for M.S. Research Projects

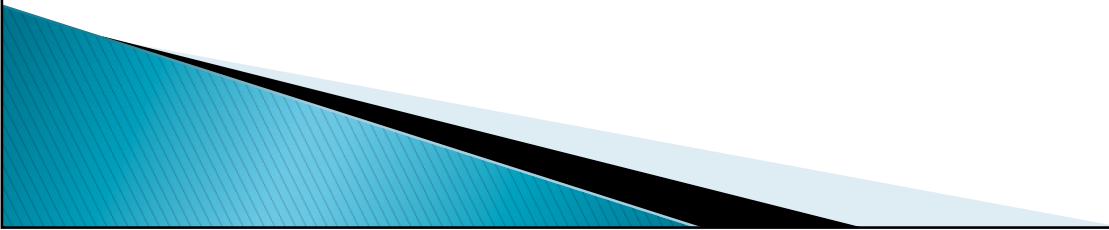
Josh Galster
Montclair State U.
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Building on previous presentations by
Andrew Goodliffe (2012)
and Sarah Sarah Penniston-Dorland (2014)



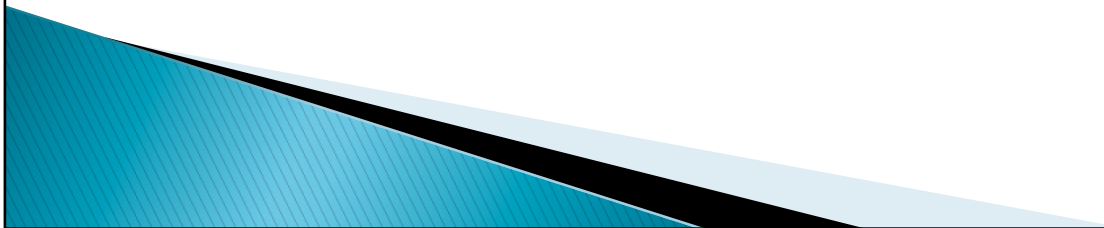
Session outline

- ▶ Your goals
- ▶ Student's goals/needs
- ▶ MS considerations
- ▶ External constraints
- ▶ Personal experiences
- ▶ Your project



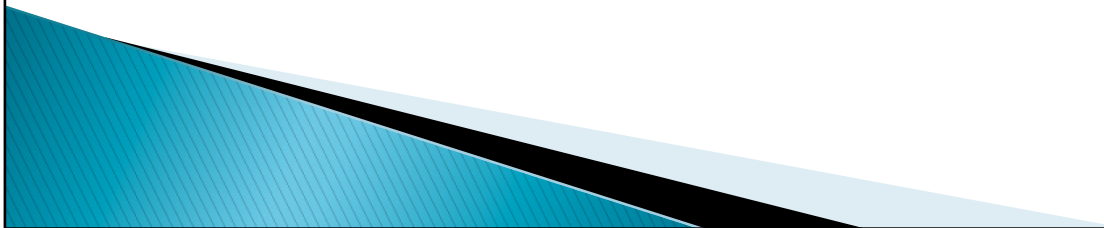
What makes a successful MS project?

- ▶ Thesis defense
- ▶ Technical proficiency/demonstration of skills
 - Writing, critical thinking, project completion
- ▶ Answering a specific question
 - e.g., Flood synchronicity in the Peckman watershed
- ▶ Timeliness
- ▶ Conference presentation, maybe publication
- ▶ Furthering your research agenda

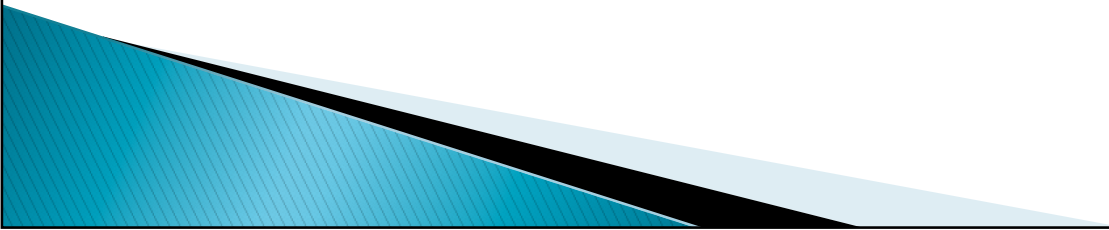


Your goals

- ▶ What are the needs of your research program?
- ▶ How can an M.S. project feed into other aspects of your research program? Pilot data?
- ▶ Can you adapt a larger-scale project into a smaller M.S. project? Can you expand a smaller project into an M.S. project?
- ▶ How many other students do you have? Where/how will your M.S. students fit in?

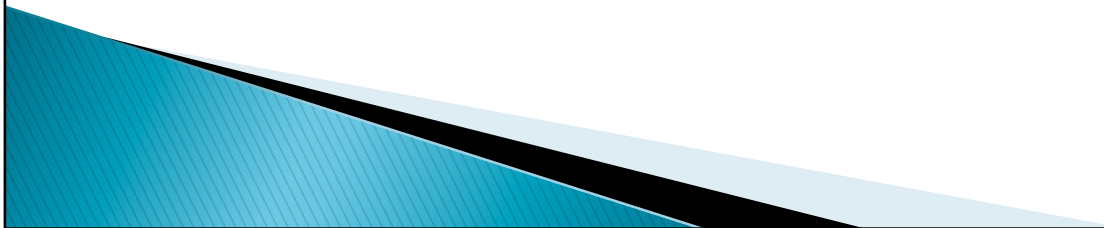


Student's goals/needs

- ▶ What are the student's goals after completing the master's (why are they doing this)?
 - ▶ What are the student's skills, interests, and abilities?
 - ▶ Should a master's project be published?
 - ▶ What are your overall learning outcomes for an M.S. student?
 - ▶ How much time can your student devote to this?
 - ▶ Academic background
- 

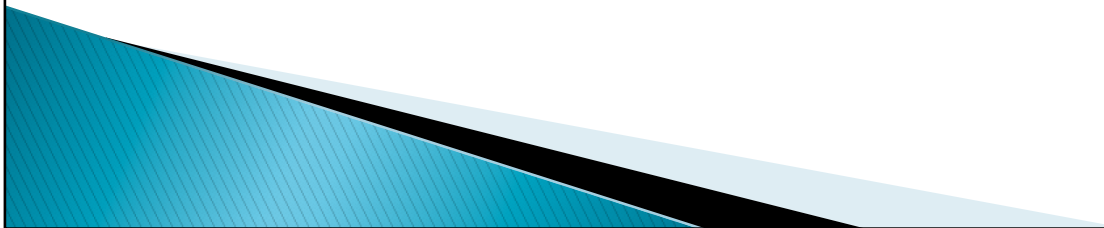
MS Considerations

- ▶ Projects can vary widely
- ▶ Technical proficiency/demonstration of skills vs. furthering science
- ▶ Writing
- ▶ Student's other commitments
- ▶ Scale of theses in your department



Personal experiences

- ▶ My experiences
 - Specific questions to answer
 - Manageable expectations
 - Regular meetings (2–4 times per month)
 - Clear expectations from you and your student
 - Timelines and regular updates



Design your own M.S project

- ▶ Goals
- ▶ Funding?
- ▶ Amount of time? Summer required?
- ▶ Logistics: Travel? Equipment? Lab?
- ▶ Previous skills required?
- ▶ Other?

