Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart and William Smith Colleges (FLI) is dedicated to the promotion of environmental research and education about the Finger Lakes and surrounding environments. In collaboration with regional environmental partners and state and local government offices, the Institute fosters environmentally-sound development practices throughout the region, and disseminates accumulated knowledge to the public.

The goals of the FLI are to:
- Advance, coordinate, and disseminate scientific understanding about the Finger Lakes environment;
- Provide interdisciplinary training for the next generation of environmental researchers, educators, and policy makers;
- Serve as a clearinghouse for environmental information about the region;
- Enhance understanding of environmental issues by regional policy makers and the public;
- Promote models that integrate economic, environmental, and social impacts of specific economic development strategies; and
- Create and disseminate educational resources and opportunities at all levels.

These goals are accomplished through four primary program areas:

**RESEARCH** projects conducted by FLI researchers are often interdisciplinary and primarily focus on water quality and other issues relevant to the Finger Lakes region.

**EDUCATION** develops and integrates curricular materials and resources to support and extend middle school and high school inquiry-based environmental education.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH** promotes knowledge, resources, and life experiences leading to the stewardship of the Finger Lakes across a variety of learners and ages.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** considers environmental quality, and includes comprehensive land use planning, policy development, and sustainable enterprise to promote economic vitality and environmental integrity in the region.
2017 Finger Lakes Research Conference: Threats to the Finger Lakes

Schedule

8 a.m.  Registration and poster set up
8:30-8:45 a.m. Welcome and Overview
Lisa B. Cleckner, Director, Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart and William Smith Colleges
8:45-9:15 a.m. Keuka Lake Fisheries Management
Brad E. Hammers, Aquatic Biologist, Division of Fish, Wildlife, and Marine Resources, NYSDEC
9:15-9:45 a.m. Pharmaceuticals and Microplastics in Cayuga Lake
Mathew Finnegan and Kathryn Sweeney, Ithaca Area Wastewater Treatment Facility
9:45-10:15 a.m. An Unexpected Benefit of the Round Goby Invasion: the Salmonid Vitamin Pill?
Matt Futia, Graduate Student, The College at Brockport, State University of New York
10 a.m.  Break
10:45-11:15 a.m. Characterizing the Ecological Niche of Invasive Round Goby in Cayuga Lake
Suresh A. Sethi, Assistant Professor, Cornell University
11:15-11:45 a.m. Nitellopsis obtusa in North America
Robin Sleith, Ph.D. Candidate, The New York Botanical Garden
11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Agricultural Programs to Protect Wayne County’s Watersheds
Lindsey Gerstenslager, District Manager, Wayne County Soil and Water Conservation District
12:15-1 p.m. Lunch

1-1:30 p.m. KEYNOTE:
Honeoye HABs: Internal Waves, Internal Loading, and Infernal Cyanobacteria

Nelson G. Hairston Jr.
Frank H.T. Rhodes Professor of Environmental Science, Chair of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Cornell University

Nelson G. Hairston, Jr. studies ecological and evolutionary responses of freshwater organisms to environmental change. His study systems range from close to home (Cayuga Lake, Onondaga Lake, Oneida Lake and Honeoye Lake, N.Y.) to more distant (Lake Constance, Swiss Alps) and from large (Lake Ontario) to small (laboratory microcosms). Research in his laboratory has shown that populations can adapt genetically (microevolution) over very short time periods to changing environments, and that this evolution affects the outcomes of ecological interactions while those interactions are taking place. In addition, he has discovered that the dormant eggs of lake organisms can survive for decades, and even centuries, in lake sediments and then hatch: a phenomenon that influences how lake ecosystems respond to environmental changes such as nutrient pollution and introductions of non-native fishes. His research has been funded primarily by the U.S. National Science Foundation, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the New York Great Lakes Protection Fund, the Andrew Mellon Foundation, and the James S. McDonnell Foundation.

Hairston received his B.S. degree (1971) in zoology from the University of Michigan and his Ph.D. (1977) in zoology from the University of Washington where he studied with renowned limnologist W.T. Edmondson. He served as a faculty member at the University of Rhode Island (1977-1985) and has been on the faculty at Cornell since 1985.

1:30-2 p.m. Mercury Concentrations in Finger Lakes Food Webs
Roxanne Razavi, Assistant Professor, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
2-2:30 p.m. Break
2:30-3 p.m. Integrated Watershed Management Efforts to Reduce Nutrients to Canandaigua Lake
Kim McGarry, Watershed Program Technician, Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council
3-3:30 p.m. Phytting a Macro Problem- Invasive Macro Algae and Phytes in the Finger Lakes
Hilary R. Mosher, Coordinator, Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management, Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart and William Smith Colleges
3:30-4:30 p.m. Poster Session and Reception

The annual FLI Science Fair brings middle and high school students to the HWS campus to present original research on the environment in the Finger Lakes region.