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NEWS RELEASE

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Undergraduate student designs sampling equipment for Watershed Research Laboratory

Terina Rollins, a senior biological engineering major, is conducting her capstone project in partnership with the Watershed Research Laboratory at the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Environmental and Watershed Research. Rollins is designing an automated sampling system for the lab's new DR/4000 Spectrophotometer. The machine, which analyzes phosphorus content in surface water samples collected as part of acid rain research projects, requires manual loading, unloading, and rinsing of a glass cell that holds individual samples. Rollins is designing a mechanical system that will automatically load and remove samples from the instrument, saving time for lab personnel and reducing the chance for human error. The engineered system will be created in the Advanced Manufacturing Center in Norman Smith Hall under the direction of Tom Christensen. The Watershed Research Laboratory is excited about the collaboration. "This is another fine example of researchers on campus working together to address analytical challenges," says research assistant Ken Johnson.

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