

## ***Journal #6188      from sdc      2.26.26***

*The Chasm Time Carved*

*Another one with passion for water - Find Your Pack - Deandre Presswood*

*A new caretaker class? As robots go mainstream, there's a job they're creating instead of eliminating*

*First Annual Report to Congress (State of the Union Address) by President Rutherford B. Hayes*

*Scholarships (N-W) with March 31 Deadline*



### **The Chasm Time Carved**

On February 26, 1919, President Woodrow Wilson signed legislation establishing Grand Canyon National Park, protecting 1,217 square miles of Arizona landscape that the Colorado River had spent six million years carving into stone. The canyon had been a national monument since Theodore Roosevelt designated it in 1908, but full national park status offered stronger protection against mining interests and commercial development. Standing at the rim, visitors gaze into geological history written in horizontal bands—two billion years of Earth's story laid bare in layered rock descending a mile to the river below.

The park's creation represented the maturation of American conservation philosophy. Earlier generations had viewed wilderness as an obstacle to overcome or a resource to exploit. By the early twentieth century, a different ethic emerged: some places were too magnificent, too scientifically valuable, too spiritually important to sacrifice for short-term gain. The Grand Canyon became a temple to this idea. Today it welcomes six million visitors annually, each confronting the humbling reality of deep time and the planet's capacity to create beauty on a scale that dwarfs human ambition. The park's establishment wasn't just about protecting scenery; it was about recognizing that some of Earth's wonders belong to everyone and to no one, preserved not for profit but for wonder itself.

~~~~~  
*Another one with passion for water*

***Find Your Pack Deandre Presswood***

**Meet the path-forging snow hydrologist who is finding his family of scientists and making his own tracks here at Nevada**

[Research & Innovation](#) | February 24, 2026 [Angela Rudolph](#)

click on pic



Snowmobiling through the Sierras is one way to get from place to place when conducting the mysterious and important work of snow hydrology. One can also mix in a bit of backcountry skiing or boarding to get from site to site, but be sure to be as prepared as Deandre Presswood, Ph.D. student in the [Blaszczak Freshwater Ecosystem Ecology Lab](#) at the University of Nevada, Reno, is. Presswood has been highly educated as part of his program through both the Snow Measurement Field School, a world-class snow hydrology summit held in Mammoth Lakes, California in 2025, and through avalanche safety and preparedness training.



Set to become the first Black American snow hydrologist, Presswood became passionate about snow hydrology early on in his education because it combined outdoor scientific research with an under-researched area that is critical to the wellbeing of individuals and communities. Here, we sat down with Presswood and discussed his path to snow hydrology, his journey at Nevada and his plans for the future.

**Q & A with Deandre "Dre" Presswood**

**Q: Are you originally from Reno?**

I'm actually from the Chicago area. My family moved around the Midwest a lot. Some of my youth was spent in Chicago and then we moved to eastern Iowa when I was in middle school.

**Q: So how did you find out about the University of Nevada, Reno and what made you decide to come study your Ph.D. here?**

It happened in a bit of a roundabout way. I earned my bachelor's degree in Earth and Environmental Science and did two research projects for that degree – one in meteorology and one in hydrology. That's when I first became really passionate about hydrology and research.

I had done a summer internship with park rangers and really gotten into doing outdoor scientific work. Then, when I took a hydrology course and completed a project in hydrology, I discovered how much there was to learn.

*"Water is so important and everything I thought about water was true ... plus more! I kind of got obsessed with it."*

Water is so important and everything I thought about water was true ... plus more! I kind of got obsessed with it. There was so much to learn about hydrology and many people don't know a lot about it. I followed my curiosity. I did research, worked with local soil and water conservation districts, and local waste reduction centers as an intern environmental research assistant. I basically did all things water that I could.

Once I graduated from the undergraduate degree program, I debated whether to get a master's or not. I ended up moving to Colorado for a bit and worked in utilities doing water leak detection. In a nutshell, people would report clean water spilling and seeping into the streets and my job was to test it and investigate where it was coming from. Already in the West, water is scarce, and losing clean water is a real issue. I loved the work and could have continued there, but I wanted to learn more, so I moved to Atlanta to get my master's.

While finishing up the research for my master's program, I received a cold-call email that was recruiting for some research happening here in Reno. It just so happened to be from the researcher whom I had been modeling my own hydrology research after! The email talked about the freshwater science being done here in the Sierras, and the snowboarding and mountain biking outdoor recreational opportunities, and I was intrigued. I applied and got the position.

**Q: You touched on this already, but what do you love about hydrology? When considering what to study, I knew I really wanted to work outside. That passion for hydrology came from my curiosity about water after taking my first course in it as an undergrad.**

Related Program [Graduate Program of Hydrologic Sciences](#) (UNR)

We really miss water when we don't have it. It matters at a societal level, and it's interesting, too. There are so many different tools, avenues and perspectives to pursue in hydrology, and that variety coupled with being outside, intersected with all my interests. It all came together.

**Q: Now that you're here, what do you think about Reno, Tahoe, and the Sierras?**

I like Reno. Reno's pretty random – but it's a good thing. You never know what you're going to get and that's really fun. There are great outdoor opportunities, and there's a lot of people coming from out of town. You never know who you're going to meet.

Some people are blowing through town to get a degree or some are distinguished scientists coming in from a different location for research or to give a talk.

The outdoor opportunities are abundant. I got into backcountry snowboarding because of my research. It's a fun way to get around from site to site when doing snow hydrology sampling.

I've learned everything about how to do snow science, including how to get out there in the field even without a vehicle.

Beyond the outdoor opportunities tied to my fieldwork, I like to mountain bike, and I play a lot of ultimate Frisbee and disc golf. On Fridays a group of professors and I get together at the rec center and play basketball against some of the undergrads. It's all really fun and a great way to network and meet folks.

**Q: I've heard that you went to snow school. Can you tell me a bit about that?**

Last year I went to [snow school](#) through a consortium of hydrological scientists and institutions with the best-known snow hydrologists in the world. Each year they have the snow school in a different location throughout the continental U.S. and when I did it, it was in Mammoth Lakes, CA. About a month after that, I went to avalanche training, after encouragement from my advisor who wanted to be sure I stay safe when I'm out snow sampling in the back country.

**Q: How has your experience been working in the labs on campus?**



It's been great. Everyone is very helpful, across disciplines. There are even postdoctoral researchers from around campus who help me out even though they are working tangentially to me. We see each other a lot but don't necessarily do the same research, which is cool.

The faculty have been really nice and helpful. They give a lot of good tips and advice and help me learn how to streamline things that can be time-consuming. It's really cool how they want to help me avoid some of the painful lessons they learned when working on their Ph.D.s.

**Q: Which faculty members have been especially influential in your journey?**

Definitely my advisor, [Dr. Joanna Blaszczyk](#). She gives me great advice and sets me up to succeed. Also, [Dr. Anne Nolin](#) is a snow scientist who lets me use her lab's snow UTV, which was really cool to have that trust. Without her generosity, I wouldn't be able to access my sites as easily as I can! I also want to give a shoutout to postdoc Dr. Emily Burt, who has been really helpful and a good collaborator.

**Q: You've spoken about the importance of leading, communicating, and making an impact – how does that show up in your work at Nevada?**

Hydrology as a whole is a really important field – it's all about water resources. Being a Person of Color in this community is really important to me.

"My community has been underrepresented and under-advocated for when it comes to water resources. ... I want to be a figure of trust. Someone who gives out great information that will be helpful to people who will actually use it."

My community has been underrepresented and under-advocated for when it comes to water resources. We have a lot of mistrust with certain organizations, and I want to be a figure of trust. Someone who gives out great information that will be helpful to people who will actually use it.

Water is expensive and picking the location you live has a lot of influence on how much you pay for your water. Also, there are a lot of implications with water quality and health, so it's important to me to give the best information and advice I can from my expert opinion. By doing this work, I can help members in my community have a better quality of life.

When you zoom out, there are a lot of water issues going on and we need to amplify that by talking about it and addressing it. I want to do that in a different way than it's been handled historically, so that people will care about it. I know that science can be seen as boring. I want to make science cool and help advocate for people to pursue this avenue.

**Q: Mentorship seems important to you, particularly working with undergraduate students. Can you share a bit about that?**

I really enjoy working with our undergraduate students. They work as research technicians and do a lot of the important work that would individually take me a long time to complete. They do things like collect samples, label items and input data ... we really rely on them.

"I teach them science, they get paid, and they get to experience a lot of things they normally wouldn't, and in return, they really streamline our research processes."

It's really neat to see because they come from a variety of research and scientific interests but by working in [Dr. Joanna Blaszcak](#)'s lab, they get experience working in a lab and in the field. I teach them science, they get paid, and they get to experience a lot of things they normally wouldn't, and in return, they really streamline our research processes. We like to hire smart undergrads. It's a good way for them to network, too. It's a win-win-win situation.

One of the lab's previous field technicians is now getting her Ph.D. at Oregon State University and another just graduated and is now getting a master's degree in ornithology [the study of birds] at Eastern Illinois University. Being undergraduate research technicians with us has big implications for their future careers. It's a launching pad. It helps to have "research field technician" or "lab manager" on your CV when you are applying for jobs.

The scientific community is a small, and we all help each other along the way. It's really cool to shepherd in the new generation of scientists.

**Q: You're involved with quite a lot of campus programs and organizations, including the Graduate Student Union. How has that involvement shaped your experience?**

Being part of the Graduate Student Union has allowed me to meet a lot of people. It's a fluid environment where we meet when we can, and we advocate for all graduate students to have a high standard of living and good work-life balance.

Sometimes we meet up with local politicians to advocate for the things we need, when we can. Recently, I got to interact with a local Reno councilwoman who used to be the state geologist for a while. After that meeting, I got invited to a private hydrology seminar with her and the University department, which was great. It's cool to meet people outside the University in a different way and interact with policymakers.

Honestly, the more programs and resources you learn about and take part in, the more people you can meet to make connections.

**Q: It's been documented that you are on track to be the first Black American snow hydrologist with a Ph.D. Would you share more about that experience and how you hope to inspire future scientists from diverse backgrounds?**

I had done research in many different climates and time zones across the U.S., including in Iowa, Colorado, Georgia and Tennessee, but I hadn't done research in the desert and hadn't done snow hydrology. Reno has both – it is a desert that has snow and a hydrology program – and that was a big draw in coming here. However, when I went to snow school, I looked around and there wasn't a lot of diversity in the field.

STEM fields aren't diverse to begin with, and you'll see that lack of diversity especially in niche fields like snow hydrology. I started to think about that, and I researched it, Googling to see if I could find any other Black snow hydrologists. There are, of course, other People of Color who have done snow science, and I found some Indigenous people who have done snow science, but after looking into it myself, I still couldn't find any other Black Americans who have done snow hydrology.

"Once I get my Ph.D., I will be the first Black American snow hydrologist."

At snow school, I was around the most distinguished and well-connected scientists in my field, and I asked them if they knew of any Black American snow hydrologists – none of them did. It's a longer story, but I was featured in the [Black Wall Street Times](#) and for that article, the journalists researched and confirmed what I had suspected. Once I get my Ph.D., I will be the first Black American snow hydrologist.

I'm excited to be in this field. Snow hydrology is so important, and doing this work is a lot of fun – it's a great time! Even if you don't live in a cold region, snowpack can still be the lifeblood of many regions and communities. We should know where that water comes from and understand it. We especially need to understand it and the dynamics of it in a warming world. I am proud to be a part of history.

Fun fact, the University had a professor, [James Church](#), who invented the [Mt. Rose Snow Sampler](#) – a foundation tool in snow hydrology. Now it'll also have the first Black American snow hydrologist!

**Q: The University and the community are truly so lucky to have you. We can tell you are going to continue to do great things. Can you share with us ... what are your plans for the**



**future?**

Presswood films a lot of his research and posts short, educational videos to Instagram and TikTok.

It's a bit ambitious, what I want to do doesn't quite exist yet, but I'm going to make it happen! I love networking and bringing people together. I love being outside and I love talking to people about science and science communication. The dream job is to bring all my passions together and create an engaging and inspiring show where I work with all my scientist friends all over the world as we do groundbreaking research. We will conduct the research, film it, publish papers, and document it all. I'd love to focus on those really difficult projects and feature scientists with different perspectives as we do work in difficult to access regions to better understand ecosystems that are understudied and that will have huge implications in nearby communities.

*Ed note: I could have/should have shortened the above but I hope it will inspire someone in this readership to consider hydrology and become the first NA as such so you got the whole bit!*

~~~~~

### [A new caretaker class? As robots go mainstream, there's a job they're creating instead of eliminating](#)

**LAT, NILESH CHRISTOPHER:** "Charlie Snodgrass used to be a gig driver, delivering burritos and pad Thai around Los Angeles. Today, he handles the robots that do his old job.

He is one of the first of a new class of workers — a robot wrangler — paid to care for and train AI-powered bots as they learn to work in the real world."

*Since we are celebrating State of the Union Messages this week:*

**Rutherford B. Hayes** was the 19th President of the United States, serving from 1877 to 1881 immediately following Ulysses S. Grant. A Republican, Hayes took office after a disputed 1876 election, which was settled by the Compromise of 1877, ending the Reconstruction era.

## **First Annual Report to Congress (State of the Union Address)**

**Dec 3, 1877**

Silver/gold coinage, civil service, Treaty of Northern Germany of 1865, other treaties (nonIndian), Mexican Revolution, Spain/Cuba contest, problems with Venezuela treaty, Samoan Independence

### **Extracts:**

“While the aggregate of taxes should not be increased, amendments might be made to the revenue laws that would, without diminishing the revenue, relieve the people from unnecessary burdens. A tax on tea and coffee is shown by the experience not only of our own country, but of other countries, to be easily collected, without loss by undervaluation or fraud, and largely borne in the country of production. A tax of 10 cents a pound on tea and 2 cents a pound on coffee would produce a revenue exceeding \$12,000,000, and thus enable Congress to repeal a multitude of annoying taxes yielding a revenue not exceeding that sum. The internal-revenue system grew out of the necessities of the war, and most of the legislation imposing taxes upon domestic products under this system has been repealed. By the substitution of a tax on tea and coffee all forms of internal taxation may be repealed, except that on whisky, spirits, tobacco, and beer. Attention is also called to the necessity of enacting more vigorous laws for the protection of the revenue and for the punishment of frauds and smuggling. This can best be done by judicious provisions that will induce the disclosure of attempted fraud by undervaluation and smuggling. All revenue laws should be simple in their provisions and easily understood. So far as practicable, the rates of taxation should be in the form of specific duties, and not ad valorem, requiring the judgment of experienced men to ascertain values and exposing the revenue to the temptation of fraud.”

“The report of the Secretary of War shows that the Army has been actively employed during the year, and has rendered very important service in suppressing hostilities in the Indian country and in preserving peace and protecting life and property in the interior as well as along the Mexican border. A long and arduous campaign has been prosecuted, with final complete success, against a portion of the Nez Perce tribe of Indians. A full account of this campaign will be found in the report of the General of the Army. It will be seen that in its course several severe battles were fought, in which a number of gallant officers and men lost their lives. I join with the Secretary of War and the General of the Army in awarding to the officers and men employed in the long and toilsome pursuit and in the final capture of these Indians the honor and praise which are so justly their due.”

“Prior to the 1st day of July last the Army was, in accordance with law, reduced to the maximum of 25,000 enlisted men, being a reduction of 2,500 below the force previously authorized. This reduction was made, as required by law, entirely from the infantry and artillery branches of the

service, without any reduction of the cavalry. Under the law as it now stands it is necessary that the cavalry regiments be recruited to 100 men in each company for service on the Mexican and Indian frontiers. The necessary effect of this legislation is to reduce the infantry and artillery arms of the service below the number required for efficiency, and I concur with the Secretary of War in recommending that authority be given to recruit all companies of infantry to at least 50 men and all batteries of artillery to at least 75 men, with the power, in case of emergency, to increase the former to 100 and the latter to 122 men each.”

I invite your special attention to the following recommendations of the Secretary of War:

First. That provision be made for supplying to the Army **a more abundant and better supply of reading matter.**

Second. That early action be taken by Congress looking to a complete revision and republication of the Army Regulations.

Third. That section 1258 of the Revised Statutes, limiting the number of officers on the retired list, be repealed.

Fourth. That the claims arising under the act of July 4, 1864, for supplies taken by the Army during the war, be taken from the offices of the Quartermaster and Commissary Generals and transferred to the Southern Claims Commission, or some other tribunal having more time and better facilities for their prompt investigation and decision than are possessed by these officers.

Fifth. That Congress provide for an annuity fund for the families of deceased soldiers, as recommended by the paymaster-General of the Army.

~~~~~

### **Scholarships (N-W ) with March 31 Deadline**

|                                                                                     |          |                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------------|
| <a href="#">Nebraska High School Senior Scholarship</a>                             | \$1,000  | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">NeW Essay Contest</a>                                                   | \$1,000  | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">NFB Scholarships</a>                                                    | \$8,000  | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">NFP Alumni Association Scholarship - Dixon School of Nursing</a>        | \$2,500  | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">NFP Alumni Association Scholarship - Nursing School of Philadelphia</a> | \$2,000  | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">NFP Alyssa C. Rudy Scholarship</a>                                      | \$1,000  | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">NFP Evelyn Benson Leadership Endowment Scholarship</a>                  | Varies   | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">NFP Florence (Madden) Grady-Fasick Scholarship Fund</a>                 | \$1,000  | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">NIADA Foundation Regional Scholarships</a>                              | \$2,500  | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">Niche \$25,000 No Essay Scholarship</a>                                 | \$25,000 | March 31, 2026 |

|                                                                          |              |                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| <a href="#">NIH Undergraduate Scholarship Program</a>                    | \$60,000     | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">NIRMA Scholarship</a>                                        | \$1,000      | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">NTAEE Energy Engineering Scholarship</a>                     | \$2,500      | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">NWCA Scholarship Foundation</a>                              | \$1,500      | March 31, 2026 |
|                                                                          |              |                |
| <a href="#">Oakwood Masonic Lodge 1444 Scholarship</a>                   | \$1,000      | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">Obadiah Joel McCarthy Memorial Scholarship</a>               | \$1,000      | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">Omi &amp; Opi's Scholarship</a>                              | Full-Tuition | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">Oregon Community Leadership Scholarship</a>                  | \$25,000     | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">Organization of Latino Actuaries Scholarship Program</a>     | \$7,500      | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">Oxbow Animal Health Scholarships</a>                         | \$2,000      | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">Oxbow Animal Health Veterinary Medicine Scholarship</a>      | \$2,000      | March 31, 2026 |
|                                                                          |              |                |
| <a href="#">Palumbo Family Foundation Scholarships</a>                   | \$10,000     | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">Paul S. Mills Scholarship</a>                                | \$3,000      | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation (PCRF) Scholarship</a>  | \$5,000      | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">Pennsylvania Chafee Education and Training Grant Program</a> | \$5,000      | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">Pennsylvania Postsecondary Educational Gratuity Program</a>  | Full-Tuition | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">PMMI Foundation Scholarships</a>                             | \$5,000      | March 31, 2026 |
|                                                                          |              |                |
| <a href="#">Regions Riding Forward Scholarship Contest</a>               | \$8,000      | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">Roller Skating Foundation Scholarship</a>                    | \$5,000      | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">Rose City Scholarship</a>                                    | \$500        | March 31, 2026 |
|                                                                          |              |                |
| <a href="#">SAME Annual Undergraduate Scholarship - DC Chapter</a>       | \$10,000     | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">Saul T. Wilson, Jr. Internship Program</a>                   | \$30,000     | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">Sertoma Hard of Hearing or Deaf Scholarship</a>              | \$1,000      | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">SFM Foundation Scholarship</a>                               | \$15,000     | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">SILA Post Secondary College Scholarship</a>                  | \$1,250      | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">SJCF Arturo Vera Art Scholarship</a>                         | \$500        | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">SJCF Avi Raina Scholarship</a>                               | \$2,000      | March 31, 2026 |

|                                                                                    |          |                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------------|
| <a href="#">SJCF John and Francesca Vera Community Leadership Scholarship</a>      | \$2,500  | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">SJCF Robert &amp; Catherine Lagorio Scholarship</a>                    | \$5,000  | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">SJCF San Joaquin Society for Human Resource Management Scholarship</a> | \$2,000  | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">SJCF Stockton Student Athletes Scholarship Fund</a>                    | \$6,000  | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Scholarship Program</a>               | \$20,000 | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">SparkForce, The FMA Foundation Scholarships</a>                        | \$2,000  | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">Stars Scholarship Fund</a>                                             | \$10,000 | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">Stavri G. Joseph 4-Year High School Scholarship</a>                    | \$6,000  | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">Sustainable Agriculture &amp; Forestry Scholarship</a>                 | \$5,000  | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">SVEC Achievement Scholarship</a>                                       | \$2,000  | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">SWACO's Scholarship</a>                                                | \$10,000 | March 31, 2026 |
|                                                                                    |          |                |
| <a href="#">Team Type 1 Global Ambassador Scholarship Program</a>                  | \$10,000 | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">The Home Depot Foundation Path to Pro Scholarship</a>                  | \$2,500  | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">The Mark Vrahas Foundation Scholarship</a>                             | \$2,500  | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">The Mesothelioma Cancer Alliance Scholarship</a>                       | \$4,000  | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">The Ruth Cheatham Foundation Scholarship</a>                           | \$5,000  | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">The Scottish Rite Scholarship Foundation</a>                           | \$3,000  | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">The Still Our Children Scholarship</a>                                 | \$2,000  | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">Transform Rhode Island Scholarship</a>                                 | \$25,000 | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">Tukwila City of Opportunity Scholarship</a>                            | \$5,000  | March 31, 2026 |
|                                                                                    |          |                |
| <a href="#">UAF Automotive Aftermarket Scholarship</a>                             | Varies   | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">UAF Heavy Duty Aftermarket Scholarship</a>                             | \$10,000 | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">USMA National Metric Awards</a>                                        | \$2,500  | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">Vectra AI Cybersecurity Scholarship</a>                                | \$10,000 | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">Veterinary Technology Scholarships</a>                                 | \$500    | March 31, 2026 |
|                                                                                    |          |                |
| <a href="#">Wasatch Peaks Foundation Reach a Better Future Scholarship</a>         | \$2,500  | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">WCREPA Aspiring Teacher Scholarship</a>                                | \$1,000  | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">Welding Near You Support Scholarship</a>                               | \$1,000  | March 31, 2026 |
| <a href="#">Women in Forest Products High School Scholarship</a>                   | \$1,000  | March 31, 2026 |