



## IAN PETERS

### ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT SCIENTIST

**Ian Peters '14** earned a BA in Geology and minor in American Music from Carleton College, and an MS in Geoscience from UW-Madison. He currently works as an environmental consultant for Atlas Technical Consultants, overseeing large drilling projects to sample soil and water, checking primarily for petroleum pollution and recommending clean-up methods. Outdoor geology labs and field trips nurtured his love and awe for the planet, beginning in middle school at Marshall. He also studied pottery samples for an archaeology research project, researched surface-level geology, and his Masters thesis explored the relationship between soil chemistry and the shape of a slope as it weathers away.

#### *How did your experience at Marshall help you after graduation?*

The academics prepared me for a college workload, but Marshall also helped me recognize my strengths and limits, and I learned how to ask for help when I reached those limits. I was shy, but once I realized my teachers wanted the best for me, I knew I could reach out and ask for a push when I couldn't quite grasp something. That baseline level of trust is important when you're being mentored, and it's good to know that you don't know everything.

#### *Who at Marshall inspired you?*

Mr. DJ inspired a passion for science and respect for the Earth, for which I'm infinitely grateful. His mentorship as a Nordic ski coach is solely responsible for my body positivity and dedication to see things through to the end (especially because I was never THAT good at skiing). Mr. Alexander pushed me in band and jazz band, and Dr. Nygaard's dedication to her students was integral to me developing trust in my mentors. These teachers inspired me to be a better performer, writer, scientist, and teacher. Also, they kept me grounded in appreciating the arts, something I think scientists often forget.

#### *Who currently inspires you?*

My favorite musician, John Darnielle of the Mountain Goats, who overcame abuse and addiction to become a fantastic songwriter and author, and whose perseverance, humor, and talent brings me limitless joy. His music keeps me going when I'm otherwise unmotivated, and his books have been touchstones at times when my mental health has suffered.