



## Brandon Hassett '07, Ph.D.

*Research Faculty/Postdoctoral Research Fellow*  
University of Tromsø-  
The Arctic University of Norway

Brandon Hassett '07 is a member of the University of Tromsø in Norway. A La Roche biology alumnus, he works as a polar marine ecologist and participates in research expeditions within Antarctica and the Arctic, working primarily as a research scientist. In this position he works to demonstrate and explain the role of microbes in maintaining the equilibrium of the Arctic Ocean.

Previously he worked at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, the Tanana Chiefs Conference and Texas A&M University before moving to conduct research in Norway. Now he focuses on creating new opportunities for students, transitioning away from conducting science himself.

One of Dr. Hassett's greatest professional accomplishments, he said, was discovering three new species and a genus previously unknown to the scientific community.

"Science is an iterative process. Many advancements often can be characterized as nuancing known phenomena. Discovering something completely unknown is quite exciting," he said.

Along with his scientific studies and discoveries, Dr. Hassett volunteered with the Peace Corps in Romania and the AmeriCorps in Kenai, Alaska.

He said, "As a Catholic I believe we are called to serve others. I volunteer in an effort to live my faith."

Dr. Hassett received his Ph.D. from the University of Alaska. Currently he is funded by the National Geographic Society as an Explorer.

