



STUDENTS COLLECT MACROINVERTEBRATES IN ENVT 350, FALL 2015!

# Environmental Studies at PLU!

## Winter 2017 Newsletter

### IN THIS ISSUE

### Our first newsletter!

Happy 2017 from the Environmental Studies program! We are pleased to share our first newsletter with you! Our goal is to distribute newsletters regularly to connect the entire PLU Environmental Studies community in the coming years.

In our inaugural issue, we welcome our new Environmental Studies chair, Dr. Jill Whitman. She shares her perspective with you on page 4. On page 2, we remember fondly our former chair Dr. William Teska, who passed away last June.

On page 5, we offer a window into activities in two of our fall courses. Madison Smith ('19) offers a student perspective on *ECON 111: Principles of Microeconomics: Global and Environmental*, offered by Dr.

Priscilla St. Clair. We also share a recent alumni event hosted by *ENVT 498: Interdisciplinary Inquiry and Analysis*.

We're proud to feature, on page 3, two students who attended the 22<sup>nd</sup> Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as student representatives of the American Chemical Society.

You also have an opportunity to meet two new faculty members on pages 3 and 4, and to hear from graduates in our alumni updates section on page 6!

We hope this newsletter will motivate you to stay in touch and to consider visiting campus sometime in the coming year!

Best wishes in 2017!

-The PLU Environmental Studies Program!



Students attend international climate conference!

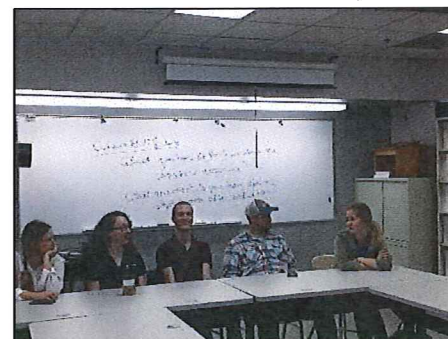
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### Welcome new faculty!

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### Environmental Studies welcomes a new program Chair!

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Alumni visit ENVT 498!

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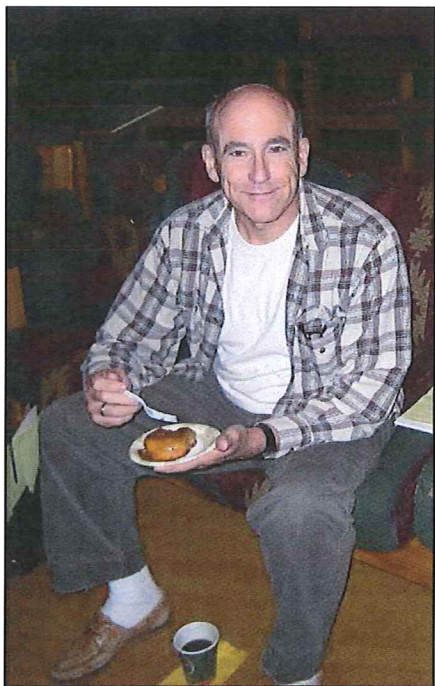


## IN MEMORIAM

## Dr. William Teska

We were deeply saddened to learn of the death of former Environmental Studies chair, Dr. William Teska. Dr. Teska made countless contributions to our program as chair, from expanding the Environmental Studies curriculum to managing the student-faculty research program in Environmental Studies as funded by the Wiancko Charitable Foundation. Below we include the University's official announcement which offers a brief summary of Dr. Teska's rich contributions to many communities.

*Professor of Biology Dr. William Teska, who was found in his home on Saturday, June 25, deceased of natural causes. Bill leaves a lasting legacy in PLU's Environmental Studies Program, and a huge hole in the hearts of many PLU students, fellow faculty members, and a wide circle of friends around the world who had the good fortune to study with him throughout Central and South America.*



Dr. Teska at one of the Environmental Studies retreats he facilitated at Pack Forest Conference Center

*Bill began his service as Professor of Biology at PLU in July 2000. He served as Associate Provost from his arrival at PLU in 2000 to June 2003, and as Chair of PLU's Environmental Studies Program from August 2007 to February 2014.*

*To say that Bill was tirelessly dedicated to teaching, scientific research, and sustainable development and conservation is an understatement. Bill was a foreign study pioneer developing programs in Central America and the Galapagos Islands in the 1980s at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina. While at Furman, he chaired the Latin American Studies concentration, implemented an interdisciplinary program among five departments, and supervised dozens of undergraduate research projects. After several years in the 1990s teaching undergraduate biology, he heard about the American Council on Education (ACE) program for developing administrative skills, and spent a year as an ACE Fellow at Agnes Scott College. While there, he gained experience and skill in leadership and institutional change, planning, and budget and financial management, which he put to good use at PLU, developing and managing the budget for the Office of the Provost.*

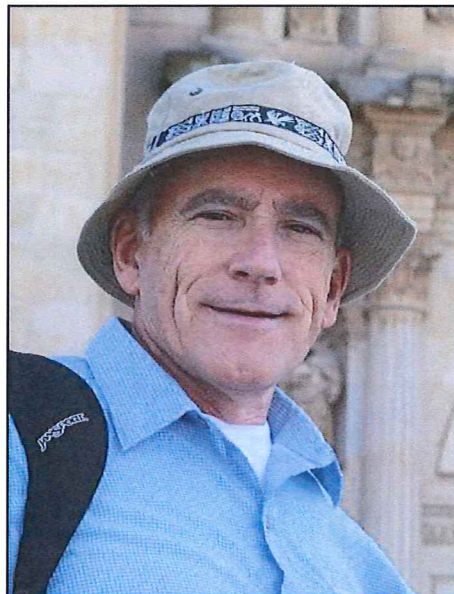
*Bill also served as a project coordinator in the U.S. State Department Bureau of Oceans & International Environmental Affairs, where he helped establish an ecological network of the more than 100 UNESCO-designated biosphere nature reserves of the Western Hemisphere for exchanging information on conservation and sustainable uses of biodiversity. Prior to that, he served as program coordinator and analyst for the U.S. Agency for International Development, where he managed a \$20 million project promoting global sustainable development through programs linking universities in 28 countries.*

*His interest in mammalian ecology led him to consider working in Central and South American ecosystems. After several scientific collecting trips, he became convinced that he would have to become proficient in Spanish if he were to have real impact in these regions. He tested his*

*fluency by spending an entire year immersed in the culture of Colombia as a Fulbright Fellow in 1991. During that year, he taught a graduate level course entirely in Spanish. His second Fulbright fellowship, in 1998-99, was dedicated to teaching sustainable development to scientists and government officials in Argentina and Uruguay. Since then, he routinely returned to study and teach in several South American countries, most recently to teach Comparative Ecology of Latin America in Ecuador with Dr. Carmina Palerm in 2010, Dr. Romey Haberle in 2014, and Dr. Heidi Schutz in 2016. In fall 2016, he was to become site director for our Gateway program in Oaxaca, Mexico.*

*Closer to home, Bill also found time to be an active volunteer in Oasis, a Pierce County community outreach and education center for LGBTQ youth. He also served on the Pride Foundation scholarship and grants committee, and volunteered for the Puget Creek Restoration Society.*

*We have lost a valued colleague, a global humanitarian, and a deeply committed leader in higher education.*



Dr. Teska pictured in front of the Church of Santo Domingo de Guzmán in Oaxaca, Mexico. Dr. Teska was to become site director for PLU's Oaxaca Gateway program this fall. (PLU/Lace M. Smith)



# Students attend international climate conference!

Alice Henderson ('16) and Maddie Smith ('17), reporting from Morocco!

This November 7-18, environmental studies and Chemistry students Maddie Smith ('17) and Alice Henderson ('16) attended the 22<sup>nd</sup> Conference of Parties (COP 22) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as student representatives of the American Chemical Society (ACS). This two-week conference was held in Marrakech Morocco and followed the historic Paris Agreement; the resulting document of COP 21 in December 2015. Both students were accredited by the UN as observers for a non-governmental organization. As such, they each spent a week in the conference "blue zone" and were able to sit in on high-level negotiations as well as numerous side events, press conferences, and exhibitions.

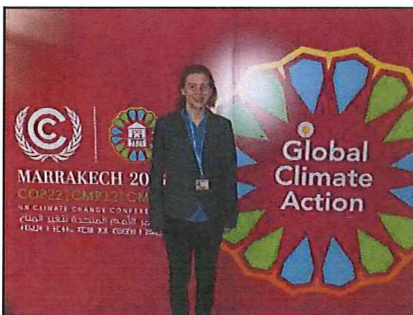
Henderson (pictured at right) attended the first week of the conference and focused on the process of science communication, its challenges and successes. She was able to chat extensively with Amanda McCarty (PLU Biology, '04) who is now a science communicator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and has been part of the US negotiation team at COP for seven years! (*Editor's note – Amanda will be our 2017 Earth Day speaker! See page 4 for details!*)



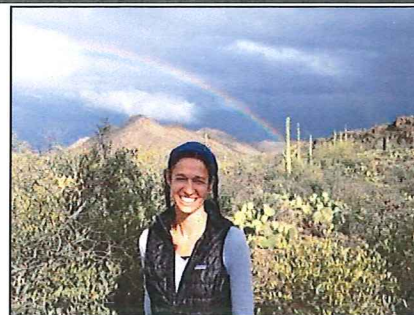
During the second week of COP 22, Smith (pictured below) attended several panels and events focused on climate justice and the rights of women, indigenous peoples, vulnerable communities, and the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The highlight of her week was hearing Secretary of State John Kerry's speech to the international community at the COP. Kerry encouraged all delegates to redouble their efforts in order to meet the goals laid out in the Paris Agreement and warned that failure to act would be "abdicating responsibility for the future" and "a betrayal of devastating consequence." Smith enjoyed meeting people from all over the world who have focused their careers on making positive change.

Overall both students had numerous interactions influencing both their career goals and international perspective on climate policy development. In the aftermath of a tense US election, it was hopeful to witness the thousands of party and organization representatives working towards decreasing global emissions and improving international justice. Both Henderson and Smith have engaged their skills as globally-aware, liberal-arts-educated thinkers and writers, blogging about their experiences and reflections along with eight other ACS student representatives from across the US. Check out their blog:

[www.studentsonclimatechange.com](http://www.studentsonclimatechange.com).



## NEW FACULTY PROFILE!



### Dr. Bridgette McGoldrick

Bridgette McGoldrick is a visiting assistant professor in the Religion Department. She currently teaches a course on Religion and the Environment and will offer a Religion and Sustainability course during the Spring term. She completed her Ph.D. in 2013 at the University of Florida. Her dissertation research explored institutional efforts to integrate religious and philosophical values in promoting environmental awareness and action among students at private secondary schools.

Prior to joining the Religion Department at PLU, Bridgette taught at the Annie Wright Schools in Tacoma. During her twelve-year tenure there she taught a variety of courses about religion, global politics and Asian cultures. While teaching at Annie Wright she received a grant from Harvard's Pluralism Project to educate students about the religious diversity in the Northwest and explored with her students how different religions addressed local environmental concerns in the Puget Sound area. She also received a teaching fellowship from the National Council of Girls' Schools which allowed her to teach in South Africa at the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy in 2012.

Bridgette's current research interests include investigating the role that both implicit and explicit religion might play in impacting environmental attitudes and behavior in the educational arena. She is also interested in how ultra-endurance athletes and their tendency to embrace dark green religion might manifest in increased forms of civic engagement in these athlete's local communities. In her free time, Bridgette enjoys spending time outdoors with her six-year-old daughter and training for Ironman events.



# Greetings from our new Environmental Studies Chair!

## Dr. Jill Whitman, Professor of Geosciences

I want to offer my deep gratitude to Dr. Kevin O'Brien for his years of service as chair of the program. We are still benefitting from his wise leadership, passion for the program, and excellent organization. He continues to teach a course that counts in the Environmental Studies program, but we miss his day to day involvement. He is now the Dean of Humanities and we wish him the best in his new role!

I am very excited to be back as chair of the Environmental Studies program after a number of years away from active involvement with the program. I had the opportunity to serve as chair of the program many years ago (in the 1990's), during the time in which the minor and major were first developed. During those years, I had a great fortune to work with a dedicated and enthusiastic group of faculty and students. While the faces have changed, the passion and engagement is still here and the program continues to thrive. It is energizing for me to be interacting with such a great group!

One of the things that I enjoy most about being chair of Environmental Studies is the opportunity to meet with students to talk about their path through the program. We are excited to have very strong enrollment in the program, and especially thrilled to

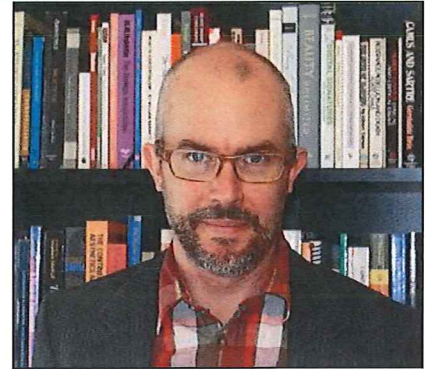


have a very large class of first-year students who intend to be majors. As always, our students bring a large range of experiences to the program, with a wide variety of complementing majors and minors, a broad geographic diversity, and many who participate in study away around the world. It was fun to hear some of these students share their experiences at our fall gathering.

We are looking forward to a full year of program activities, both in and out of the classroom. The seniors are well on their way to identifying their capstone topics and connecting with their mentors from around the campus. A new crop of students is eagerly anticipating wading around in Clover Creek in ENVT 350 this spring. I hear reports of the many exciting things that are happening in the courses from around campus that support the program. We are planning another program gathering for early in spring semester, and we have an exciting Earth Day speaker scheduled!

We always enjoy hearing from alums and are especially excited when any make an appearance on campus, so please stay in touch and come see us when you are in the area!

## NEW FACULTY PROFILE!



## Dr. Michael Rings

Dr. Michael Rings received his PhD in Philosophy from Indiana University, with a focus in ethics and the philosophy of art. He started teaching at PLU in Fall of 2015, and joined the Philosophy department as a Visiting Assistant Professor in J-Term 2016. Prof. Rings has taught Philosophy, Animals, and the Environment (PHIL 327), and looks forward to teaching Environmental Ethics (PHIL 226) in the coming Spring semester. In addition to issues in environmental ethics, he is also interested in environmental aesthetics—the philosophical study of beauty in nature—and in how our appreciation of nature as a beautiful phenomenon might inform our more ethical treatment of it.

## EARTH DAY 2017!



## Amanda McCarty

The Environmental Studies Program is very excited to announce our 2017 Earth Day Speaker – Amanda McCarty (Biology and ENVT minor '04) who served as a US negotiator at the Conference of the Parties for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. She will join us on **Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>**, in the **Scandinavian Cultural Center!**



## News from Environmental Studies classrooms!

*Economics 111: Principles of Microeconomics: Global and Environmental,  
with Dr. Priscilla St. Clair*

Madison Smith ('19)

Everyone who studies the environment has their own special way they like to approach it. For me, it is the Economic lens. I was excited when I found out PLU offered a Microeconomics class with an environmental component, and was not disappointed! Econ 111 has helped me understand the reasons why humans use certain systems even though we know they are a detriment to the environment. More importantly, I've found it's been a spark for ideas of how we could use tried and true models of social behavior to alter people's lifestyles towards sustainability. The class is engaging and full of diverse scenarios from all over the world. Throughout the course I have felt encouraged to take the information I'm learning and reason it out in different relevant situations, rather than spending hours memorizing the text book. Even for a student who doesn't think they are interested in Economics, this class is a great way to expand your knowledge of how the world operates.



### *Environmental Studies 498: Interdisciplinary Inquiry and Analysis*

Environmental Studies 498 prepares students for their interdisciplinary capstone research projects and for life after they graduate from PLU. As part of that preparation, five Environmental Studies alumni spent a class period with ENVT 498 students. These alums shared their capstone research experiences, and their post-PLU pursuits. Interested in joining an Environmental Studies alumni panel? We'd love to have you in an upcoming class! Contact Environmental Studies chair Dr. Jill Whitman to connect with the program.



*Environmental Studies alumni (from left to right) Hanna Hill ('13), Megan Noborikawa ('12), Nathan Page ('13), Marcus Reaves ('12), and Katy Guinn ('12). To learn more about what these alums are up to, see our alumni updates on page 6!*



## Alumni Updates!

Thanks so much to Environmental Studies alums who provided an alumni update! We will send out a wider call for updates for our next newsletter – so stay tuned!



**Marcus Reaves ('12)**  
"I have been working for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) since July 2012. I am currently working out of Montesano, serving as the Area Habitat Biologist for Pacific County. My primary job duties as an Area Habitat Biologist include writing/issuing

Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) Permits and reviewing Forest Practice Applications (FPA's). Anyone that wants to conduct construction projects or activities in or near state waters are required to obtain an HPA Permit from WDFW. People obtain an HPA Permit for projects such as bulkhead construction, piers, docks, culvert replacement, beaver dam removal, erosion control etc. WDFW administers the HPA Program under the State Hydraulic Code, which was specifically designed to protect fish life. I work with project applicants (private landowners, the county, businesses etc.) by conducting pre-application site visits to ensure that their project activities will not harm fish life. I provision the HPA permit to make sure of this, and will deny an applicant an HPA if necessary. I also work with DNR foresters and review the hydraulic project section of forest practice applications to make sure that their projects also meet the requirements for the protection of fish life. I spend a majority of my time out in the field hiking streams and working with landowners which is great!"

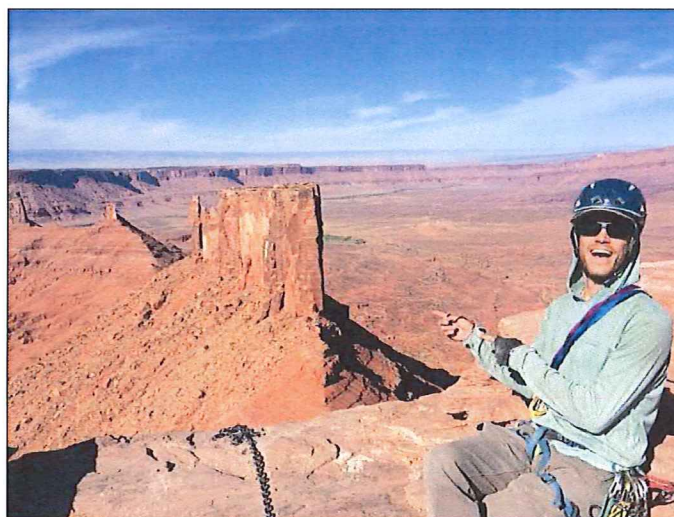


**Katy Guinn ('12)**

Katy is living in and loving Tacoma. She works for the Boys & Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound as a Program Director. When she isn't playing with kids after school, Katy loves to run, bike, and hike all over the Northwest. She has been perfecting the art of baking over the past 3 years as a favorite hobby!



**Hanna Hill ('13)**  
Hanna works at Rebuilding Together South Sound, a low-income housing nonprofit in Tacoma. She is also enrolled in continuing education at the University of Washington, working toward her Project Management Professional certification. She plays in a recreational soccer league and enjoys the gorgeous hikes Washington has to offer year round!



**Nathan Page ('13)**

"For the past two years I have been teaching Environmental and Outdoor Education down in sunny California and up in not so sunny Seattle! I also had a yearlong stint working to develop an organic farm and ecological learning center down in Nicaragua with fellow alum, Brett Rousseau. Living down south was incredibly rewarding, but I've decided to follow the track of the glaciers and recede back to the heart of the cascades! Seattle is my home at the moment where I'm working on an ambulance as an EMT and teach Wilderness Medicine Courses all over the Northwest. Just like Clover Creek, I may not flow through PLU anymore, but I am indebted for the time I spent there and I thank you all for being a part of that journey!"

**Megan Noborikawa ('12)**

Megan has been at Sound Family Medicine for three years. Last year she finished a certification program in editing at University of Washington. She is still active in theater and you can see some of her creations in Puyallup local theater. Megan now lives in Tacoma.



## Coming once again this spring... ENVT 350!

Many Environmental Studies alums will have (hopefully fond!) memories of studying Clover Creek in *ENVT 350: Environmental Methods of Investigation*! This spring, students will be assessing the health of Clover Creek watershed through the lenses of philosophy, literature, geology, biology, and chemistry. Working with Dr. Kat Huybers, students will perform field and lab analyses, take tours of the watershed, and learn to collaborate on a wide range of tasks required for in-depth environmental investigation.

The photos below were taken by Dr. Kat Huybers during ENVT 350 in fall 2015. Alums, can you recognize any of the field sites?





# Winter 2017 Newsletter

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