



SPRING 2018 ENVT 350 AFTER A LONG DAY OF SAMPLING IN OUR LOCAL WATERSHED!

PLU Environmental Studies! 2018 Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE

Our second newsletter!

Hello to all friends of PLU Environmental Studies! We write during a hectic time on campus – full of final presentations and papers and goodbye to our seniors. It's a time we feel particularly proud of the accomplishments of all of our students! In this issue, we showcase some of the exciting activities students engage in Environmental Studies.

Students share their experiences in a Philosophy class (p 4), and an Anthropology class (p 5).

We learn about studying away in Telemark, Norway on page 3 – and at Holden Village, WA on page 4! All of our majors are required to complete some form of experiential learning before their senior year; we feature one student's internship experience on page 6!

We're also proud to share the accomplishments of our alums on pages 2, 7, and 8! Many, many thanks to those of you who submitted alumni updates!

Finally – thanks to our readers! We appreciate your interest! Stay in touch!

Follow us on Facebook for news, opportunities, and updates:

[@pluenvtstudies](https://www.facebook.com/pluenvtstudies)

Join the Environmental Studies Alumni Facebook group to keep in touch with faculty and alums from the department:

<https://www.facebook.com/group/s/287826141363949/>

Until our next issue, keep engaging the complex relationships between humans and the environment – that's how we spend our days here on campus!



Study Away in Telemark, Norway

Jackie Stenberg '19 shares her experiences!

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PHIL 226 in Holden Village, WA

Students work with Dr. Hay over J-term!

Page 4

From Capstone to Career - News from Amber Hailey '17

Only a year ago, Amber presented her capstone project: For Further Consideration of Bees When Restoring for Native Pollinators. We wanted to catch up with Amber to learn what she's been up to in the year since graduation!

By Amber Hailey, '17



While studying at PLU, I found a passion for insects. Mostly I love sharing with others how diverse and important insect pollinators are, like our native bees. It only made sense that immediately after graduating from the ENVT and BIOL departments last spring that I began working for Eli Bloom at Washington State University's Puyallup Research Extension Center. I had first contacted Eli while researching my senior capstone project, and decided to reach out again when I saw he was hiring a field tech. His research focuses on pollination and native bees on organic farms throughout Western Washington, which meant I was able to work in greenhouses and on farms all summer, collecting and monitoring insects.



After my last week working for Eli, I moved to Olympia, WA to start an AmeriCorps service term at the Center for Natural Lands Management (CNLM). CNLM focuses on protecting, enhancing, and restoring native prairie and oak ecosystems throughout the Pacific Northwest. Here, I serve as one of two butterfly and pollinator science technicians with CNLM's rare species ecologist, Susan Waters.

So far at CNLM, I have been able to employ a new technique for counting native seeds, help with data analysis of a pollinator dependency project, create a poster for a symposium this April, as well as be part of the release of endangered Taylor's checkerspot butterfly larvae and take part in other on-the-ground restoration activities like slash pile burns and native plug planting. I feel like the support I had throughout my undergrad career from faculty and staff at PLU has given me a lot of confidence; I am not afraid to voice ideas or take on responsibilities. I cannot stress enough how grateful I am for the opportunities I took advantage of while at PLU. I made so many connections and created a portfolio of projects and knowledge in a variety of disciplines that I can share with employers, etc.



Until August of this year, I will be serving at CNLM before moving back to Hansville, WA with my fiancé, Ross and our dog. After being exposed to so many different research projects, I have realized I am most passionate about sharing information with others, learning from different perspectives, and presenting ideas in clear ways. Once I leave Olympia, I plan on pursuing a teaching career. I am still not exactly sure the level at which I want to teach, but I am really excited to have an idea of what I want to do with my PLU education in the future moments of my life.

Studying Away in Telemark, Norway!

By Jackie Stenberg '19

Studying away in Telemark, Norway gave Kristi [Floyd, '19] and me many opportunities for learning and experience beyond that which can be found at PLU, including taking Alpine Ecology, which isn't offered at PLU. Our Alpine Ecology class started out with a weeklong excursion, where we were introduced to the semester material right away, physically interacting with the ecosystem. This was super helpful because we could refer back to these real-life applications for the



rest of the semester. Additionally, the trip helped our class get closer and more comfortable with each other, promoting pushing past cultural differences to allow peers to become friends.

The town we lived in, Bø, has a population of about six thousand, making it easy to walk everywhere we needed to go, which in turn was nice to decrease our carbon footprint! The smaller town in the country gave us the ability to experience a slower paced lifestyle which facilitated adventures in town and in the surrounding areas.



Bø is located in close proximity to a variety of biomes, and many different areas are accessible if you're willing to walk a little bit! There are many mountain hikes in the area, and a forest just behind the neighborhood containing the student housing has a good amount of trails. We were able to frequent these and we even slept outside in hammocks a few nights! Overall, studying in Telemark was an enlightening and enjoyable experience, in terms of both academics and extracurriculars.

Philosophy 226 Environmental Ethics

J-term 2018 in Holden Village, WA with Professor Sergia Hay



By Collin Ray '18

Photos courtesy of Collin Ray and Sergia Hay

After a day and a half travel on a charter bus, boat, and yellow school bus, you have officially made it to Holden Village. Without cell phone reception or internet, this study away feels as remote as Uganda or Antarctica, but in actuality, you haven't even left the state! My experience at Holden Village is one that I'll always cherish. Not too often are we forced to put our phones away for a whole month and be present with the people around us. All meals are communal with the rest of the staff and students from other schools, so it's never difficult to find new conversation. As a class, we went snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, sledding, and got bombarded by another school in a snowball fight. We danced to Beyoncé, sang/danced in talent shows, and serenaded Dr. Hay on her anniversary! Without cell phones, our group connected with true and meaningful conversation that is often hard to come by on campus.



For the class, we learned about different environmental ethics and how people differ in their views of the natural world. Since the village is so secluded from commercial industries, I really got to spend quality time removed from traditional Western influences on the environment to discern how I wanted to interact with the world around me when I arrived back to Parkland. With Holden Village's mission of sustainability, it made me seriously critique my own living style at home and has since provoked a lot of positive change. As a senior environmental studies major, this trip provided me the opportunity to culminate my four year education in a truly nurturing place. Through everyday life I incorporated all of the many disciplines I have taken through the environmental studies program here at PLU and wouldn't have spent my final J-Term any other way. I am forever grateful to the Holden community and the PLU students who made this trip one that I'll never forget!



Anthropology of Water with Dr. Jen Brown

By Layne Perkins '20

Photo courtesy of Layne Perkins

This J-Term, I had the opportunity of taking Dr. Jen Brown's Anthropology 389 class titled Anthropology of Water. The class was made up of Environmental Studies and Anthropology students, as well as a few students taking it for a gen-ed credit, so there were very diverse ideas and perspectives. The class was mainly discussion based focused on the readings we did. Readings focused mainly on two geographical locations, Mumbai, India and rural villages in Peru. This class was very interesting because it not only taught me about cultural differences in terms of water, but it also taught me about how the government in these areas reacts to the water crises their populations face. We talked about how climate change is affecting marginalized people around the world in terms of sea level rise, melting permafrost, and flooding and ways in which their government is reacting to these issues. Dr. Brown would facilitate the discussion using her extensive background of anthropology and, even though she does not have much background in environmental studies, she provided an open and welcoming space where students could contribute to the conversation and provide intersections between different areas of study. Our major project in the class was to create an academic poster looking at an issue that has to do with water and how people are affected by said issue. My project focused on the environmental and anthropological effects of dams, specifically dams in



Alder Dam on the Nisqually River

Washington State. We completed the project throughout the month, and our final included a presentation on our findings. Dr. Brown provided a lot of support with both the project and the class as a whole, and made the class very engaging and interesting for every student.

A note from the President of GREAN!

Anyone who is looking for an on-campus community to engage their passion for sustainability should stop by GREAN Club! (GrassRoots Environmental Action Now) Meetings feature educational presentations,



discussions, and sustainable activities. In 2018 GREAN has focused on waste diversion, learning about where our recycling goes, starting a 'Buy-Nothing' Facebook group for PLU, and even 'dumpster diving' around campus for containers to re-use. For this year's Earth and Diversity week, we built a fort out of recycled cardboard in the Lower AUC, and we partnered with Dining Services and SAB to put on a "Food for Thought" event where students could try sustainable and local meals. If you are interested in joining us, email grean@plu.edu, or find us on social media, @plugrean.

-Julia Grosvenor '19

Environmental Studies Experiential Learning

An Internship with Tacoma Water!

By Jadey Simmons '19

Photos courtesy of Jadey Simmons

Halfway through Fall 2015, I was chosen for the Skilled Occupational Intern position with the Water Quality Regulatory Compliance Group within the Water Division of Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU). The mission of Tacoma Water is to provide clean, reliable water now and in the future; my particular group is just one essential cog in the wheel that makes this happen. Interning with Tacoma Water opened my eyes to how many experts from all sorts of fields are needed to successfully operate a drinking water utility. This interconnectedness between fields exemplified what I learned in ENVT 350: Environmental Methods of Investigation, such as water quality and conservation, absolutely require interdisciplinary studies to understand how the economics, politics, and all the other social science and humanities fields intersect with the natural sciences.

As the intern, most of my duties are in the office and pertain to the data entry and customer service involved in working for a water utility. However, my favorite parts of the internship are when I am out in the field with the Water Quality Specialists taking grab samples from the local distribution system or hiking and sampling within the Green River Watershed with a Watershed Inspector.



When we collect grab samples, I typically am responsible for analyzing pH, turbidity, temperature, chlorine, and sometimes dissolved oxygen and alkalinity using portable colorimeters, probes, or titration apparatuses. The best part of my internship is during the summer when we work with the Army Corp of Engineers to take a boat out in the middle of the Howard Hanson Dam Reservoir to collect samples that we either send to contracted labs for analysis or store in the TPU



lab until I analyze them for iron and manganese concentrations. I also have helped with collecting samples for other programs that are regulations of the Safe Drinking Water Act, such as the Lead and Copper Rule and Wellhead Protection Program.

ALUMNI NEWS! *Thanks for sending updates!*

Katie Anderson '17 "I'm mid-way through an AmeriCorps term at a nonprofit in Missoula, Montana, as part of the Energy Corps program. After graduation, I spent my summer at Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp in Fort Collins, CO, with Victoria



Benson ('17)! We both continued working at the camp into the fall for retreat hosting and abundant work projects. Now, I'm serving at Home ReSource, a nonprofit building materials reuse center, in support of its work with local K-12 schools. My position

includes leading a Zero Waste Ambassador Program (ZWAP!) for local 5th grade classes- 33 this spring! - and working with the Missoula County Public School District to write a plan for the district to achieve Zero Waste to support community goals. The local paper, the *Missoulian*, wrote an [article](#) about ZWAP!" Katie will head to Dartmouth in fall to begin a MS Degree!

Reza Refaei '17 "I spent spring break as the staff advisor for one of Linfield College's alternative spring break programs that had an Environment and Conservation focus. The group of 11 students spent their spring break volunteering with the Deschutes National Forest Service, based in Bend, working on projects focused on river restoration. The group thinned hardwoods in a riparian area, aided in restoration along the Fall River by blocking user created trails and replanting native grasses, and we



also floated the Deschutes River stopping to pick up trash in the river and at dispersed campsites."



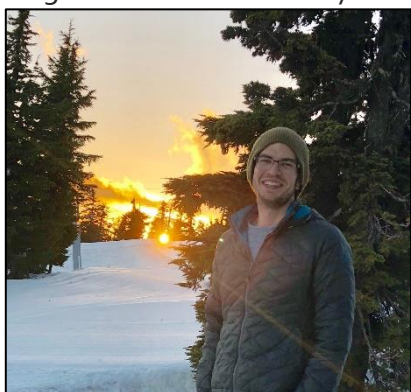
Riley Swanson '15 "After finishing my undergraduate degree I felt completely burned out. I knew that I was not ready for graduate school. I was warned countless times that the longer that I waited, that the harder it would be to go back to school. After three years out, I can see that that advice is not completely off base. It already feels like a big hurdle to jump back into the academic world. I have definitely enjoyed my time away from school, but I now know that it is something that I really want to do. In my gap year, that turned into three..., I experienced a lot of things that leave me with no regrets.

I was able to indulge in international travel; I traveled to South East Asia with Isaac Moening-Swanson ('15) for 7 weeks, visiting Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam. I squeezed in a winter Europe trip and visit Budapest, Vienna, and Prague with my family.

I have also been able to pursue my passions for outdoor recreation during my time after college. In Pagosa Springs, Colorado, I have been working seasonal positions as a ski instructor, raft guide, and mountain bike guide. After three years of working what I thought was my dream job, I slowly realized that I could not maintain this work for the rest of my life. The lack of full-time work made it hard to maintain. I found myself working as an electrician's assistant and eventually a substitute teacher to fill the off seasons. During these times, I knew that I wanted to get back into the field of geology.

I then started applying to graduate schools and eventually chose Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. I will be starting this fall to get my Masters of Science in Geology."

Michael Vermeulen '12 "In 2017 I finished my second year as an environmental educator at the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center and moved to Portland, OR to start graduate school. It's been great being back in the PNW, but Cleveland was great! I'm a MS student and TA in the Environmental Science and Management department [at Portland State University]. My research focuses on investigating neighborhood biodiversity and habitat connectivity.



This spring/summer I am surveying bird populations in three Portland neighborhoods and investigating the relationships between local land use and conservation practices."

Darcie Booth '17 begins an Environmental Policy and Management Master's at Univ. of Denver next month!

Julia Glassy '15 "At the current moment, I am a nanny for a great family, but in late August 2018 I will start graduate school in Education for the Environment and Community through Islandwood (on Bainbridge Island). The first year I will be living on Bainbridge Island and taking classes while educating the 4th/5th grade classes that come over and stay at Islandwood for the week. The second year I will be taking classes on UW Seattle's campus. After the two



years I will be graduating with a Master's in Education with an emphasis and on elementary education and specializing in science education. I am also a volunteer with Seattle Parks and Recreation as a Seattle Urban Nature Guide, and a volunteer at the

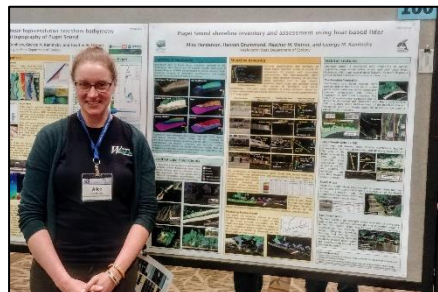
Seattle Aquarium as an exhibit interpreter and focus primarily on the tide pool exhibits.

Alice Henderson '16 "As of October 2017, I am in a year-long internship at the Washington State



Department of Ecology headquarters in Lacey, WA. The position is in their Coastal Monitoring and Analysis program and affiliated with the Washington

Conservation Corps, an AmeriCorps program housed at Ecology and focused on environmental restoration and disaster response, employing over 350 young adults each year. In my position I assist in seasonal, long-term and short-term project field work, including beach elevation surveys along the Columbia River Littoral Cell every three months. These surveys involve high-precision GPS equipment and walking on specific transects that have been surveyed each season for over 20 years! In the office, one of my primary tasks has been processing raw lidar data from their boat-based lidar surveys all around the Puget Sound from 2013 – 2016. My work has been used to create high-resolution digital elevation models as well as detailed habitat analysis, quantifying features including overhanging vegetation, large woody debris, and beach wrack debris. Most recently, I was able to present our lidar work in a poster for the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference in Seattle. This has been an exciting opportunity to branch out from chemistry and environmental studies coursework at PLU. I will be at Ecology until September when the position ends and



I will be headed to a Master of Science program in Agricultural and Environmental Chemistry at UC Davis!