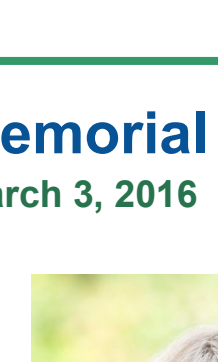




Top stories in this newsletter



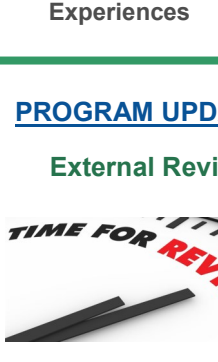
Roberts Lecture:
Dr. Pam Matson



External Review
Program Updates



Alumni Update:
Carol Earnest '11

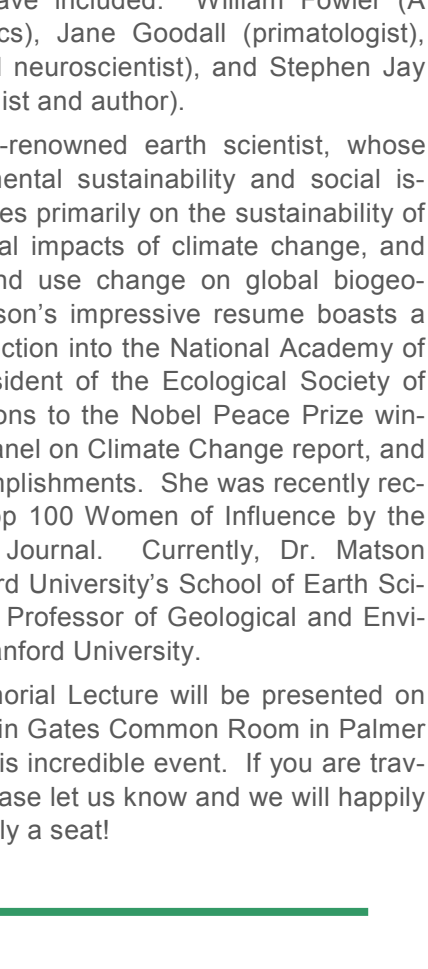


Undergraduate Summer Experiences

Roberts Memorial Lecture

March 3, 2016

This academic year, the Environmental Program is honored to host **Dr. Pamela Matson** of Stanford University as the 2016 Harold D. and Rhonda N. Roberts Lecturer. The Roberts Memorial Lecture aims to support and enhance the teaching of science at Colorado College. The privilege of choosing each year's speaker rotates among the natural science programs and this year is our turn. Past distinguished lecturers have included: William Fowler (A Nobel Laureate in physics), Jane Goodall (primate biologist), Marian Diamond (a noted neuroscientist), and Stephen Jay Gould (evolutionary biologist and author).



Stanford SCHOOL OF EARTH, ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Dr. Matson is a world-renowned earth scientist, whose work integrates environmental sustainability and social issues. Her research focuses primarily on the sustainability of agricultural systems, social impacts of climate change, and the effects of tropical land use change on global biogeochemical cycles. Dr. Matson's impressive resume boasts a MacArthur Fellowship, election into the National Academy of Sciences, a term as president of the Ecological Society of America, major contributions to the Nobel Peace Prize winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, and many other notable accomplishments. She was recently recognized as one of the Top 100 Women of Influence by the Silicon Valley Business Journal. Currently, Dr. Matson serves as Dean of Stanford University's School of Earth Science and is the Goldman Professor of Geological and Environmental Sciences at Stanford University.

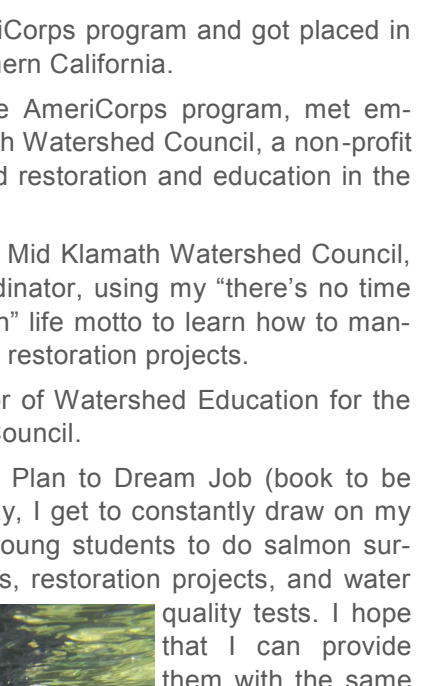
The 2016 Roberts Memorial Lecture will be presented on Thursday, March 3, 2016 in Gates Common Room in Palmer Hall. Please join us for this incredible event. If you are traveling from out of town, please let us know and we will happily reserve you and your family a seat!

Alumni Updates:

Carol Earnest, Class of 2011

We recently contacted Carol Earnest, Environmental Science—Integrated '11, to reflect on her CC Environmental Science experience and life in general. Today, Carol is working in a remote part of Northern California with the Mid Klamath Watershed Council. Carol's journey to her "dream job" show that hard work and a sense of adventure can lead to wonderful opportunities. Carol shared a snapshot of her journey with us to inspire our students and alumni to look forward to the road that lies ahead.

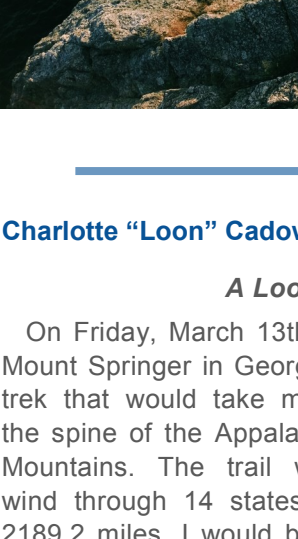
"I have been a Colorado College graduate for four years now. As each year passes, I remain nostalgic for those good ol' Tutt Science Center days. I always knew I had it good as a CC student, but didn't realize how good until I wasn't a student anymore and I actually had to use my education in, you know, the world. At first, it was scary. I thought, "Real life is probably not going to be this cool" and "I wish I could be in college forever". I am so happy to report that all those worries I had upon graduating have disappeared as I hurtle forward into the interdisciplinary universe that surrounds us. Colorado College, and the people I met there, helped me get to where I am now, which is a lovely place in California where I just so happen to have my dream job. How did it bring me here? Read on...



Carol conducting salmon surveys in Northern California

1. Got into CC.
2. Met amazing professors and mentors (shout out to Miro Kummel, Eric Perramond, Howard Drossman, and Sally Meyer!).
3. Took great classes where I learned how to learn and get things done in an efficient, yet quality manner (thank you, block plan).
4. Went to Miro Kummel's office asking for some guidance and landed a job doing treeline research on Pikes Peak.
5. While on Pikes Peak, Miro recommended I sign-up for the Ecological Society of America Listserv so I could be in the loop about ecology jobs and opportunities.
6. Graduated, did a bunch of other jobs, continued to check my Ecological Society of America Listserv emails and found information about the Watershed Stewards Project, an AmeriCorps program that focuses on anadromous fisheries work and youth education.
7. Applied to said AmeriCorps program and got placed in a small rural town in Northern California.
8. While completing the AmeriCorps program, met employees of the Mid Klamath Watershed Council, a non-profit that focuses on watershed restoration and education in the Klamath Basin.
9. Got job offer with the Mid Klamath Watershed Council, worked as a project coordinator, using my "there's no time to waste on the block plan" life motto to learn how to manage grants and implement restoration projects.
10. Became the Director of Watershed Education for the Mid Klamath Watershed Council.

Voilà! Carol's Ten-Step Plan to Dream Job (book to be released next year). Today, I get to constantly draw on my CC education as I take young students to do salmon surveys, educational raft trips, restoration projects, and water quality tests. I hope that I can provide them with the same positivity and support that I received, so that one day they can be worrying about what they'll do next as they receive their college diplomas."



Carol Earnest underwater

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Carol Earnest underwater

PROGRAM UPDATES

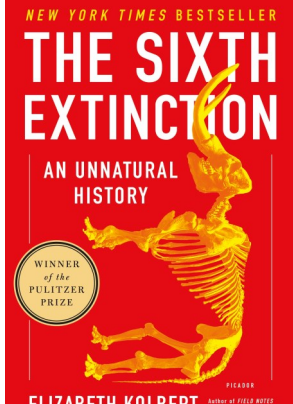
External Review

The Environmental Program has begun the process of conducting an External Review of the program's academics and student experiences. The process will take over a year and will require input from faculty, staff, students, and alumni of the Environmental Program. Alumni should expect an email this winter asking for your input. Please respond with honest feedback! We value the perspectives of our alumni and want your opinions in determining what the Environmental Program should look like in the next 10 years. Please help us provide the best education to future students.

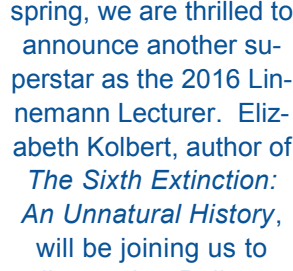


External Review

Review of the 2015 Linnemann Lecture: James Balog

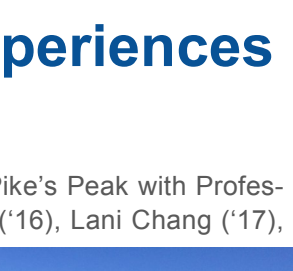


James Balog



Chasing Ice

Last April, James Balog of the Extreme Ice Survey, featured in the critically-acclaimed documentary "Chasing Ice", joined the Colorado College community for an inspiring talk about the impact of climate change through stunning photography and video of the world's glaciers. Mr. Balog's presentation was followed by dinner with Mr. Balog and the graduating seniors in the Environmental Program. Mr. Balog made an effort to talk to students at every table.



James Balog

Preview of the 2016 Linnemann Lecture: Elizabeth Kolbert

April 21, 2016



The Sixth Extinction

After such an incredible Linnemann Lecture last spring, we are thrilled to announce another superstar as the 2016 Linnemann Lecturer. Elizabeth Kolbert, author of *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History*, will be joining us to discuss her Pulitzer Prize winning book about the precious biodiversity of our planet. Kolbert is a staff writer for the New Yorker and is author of several other books including *Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change* (2006) and *The Prophet of Love and Other Tales of Power and Deceit* (2004).

New EV Courses!

Watershed BioGeo-Chemistry with Professor Rebecca Barnes

Community Forestry with Professor Jean Lee

Going Green: American Environmental Politics in Theory and Practice (FYE) with Professor Corina McKendry

Environment, Food & American Society with visiting Professor Tyler Cornelius

Undergraduate Summer Experiences

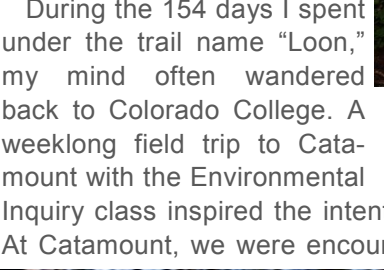
Meredith Parish, Class of 2016

This summer I had the privilege of researching tree line on Pike's Peak with Professor Miro Kummel, along with Eric Neumeyer ('16), Mike Raab ('16), Lani Chang ('17), and Adam Young ('16). Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for ten weeks we would meet at 5:30am to hike up to tree line. The sleepy hike up the mountain, led by Miro's dog Lily, was quickly rewarded by the spectacular views waiting for us everyday.

We wanted to address the question of how the spatial structure of the tree line influences the ability of the tree line to respond to forcing from regional climate change. To answer this question we spent the summer this collecting mountains of data. We set up a weather tower that we moved every time we were on Pike's to record temperature, relative humidity, wind direction, and wind speed at multiple heights.

Additionally we had a temperature and relative humidity transect spanning from the tundra down below tree line. We also collected data on early spring snow distribution, soil moisture, tree growth and age, and the symmetry of the trees (the trees are almost exclusively Engelmann Spruce).

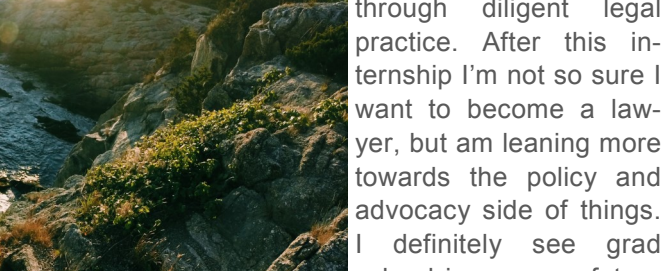
I was also lucky enough to join Miro Kummel's research during the beginning of the Environmental Science Program's research drone program. Darren Ceckanowicz, the Environmental Science Technical Director, programmed our 8-propeller DJI drone named Charlotte. We equipped Charlotte with a thermal camera, a near infrared camera, and a visible light camera. We had a few successful missions before Charlotte's demise.



Charlotte, the drone, flying above the study site

Tuesday and Thursday were reserved for wrestling with new and old programs (R, ArcMap, Excel, and Agisoft). My thesis block is around the corner where I will continue to wrestle with analyzing the data, which will hopefully lead to some interesting conclusions!

If you are interested in researching treeline, talk to Miro Kummel. Or feel free to email me with questions or comments: Meredith.Parish@ColoradoCollege.edu



The Pikes Peak research crew (including Miro's dog, Lily)

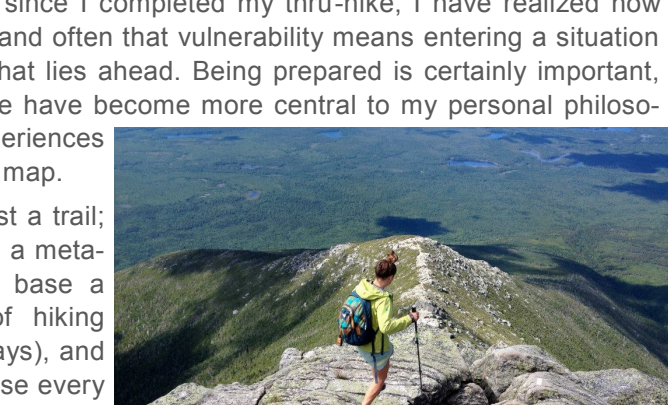
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Gabby Palko, Class of 2016

This summer I worked in the Environmental Defense Unit at the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office. My position was mostly research oriented. My days were mostly filled with case research, which included everything from interpreting deeds from the late 1800s and early 1900s to obtaining photographs to online searches for case law. I also spent a lot of time researching conservation easement law and policy as it applies to two of my supervisor's major cases. Some days were filled with more mundane tasks like issuing lead notices of violation or constructing maps, but some days I would wander into courtrooms and watch anything from metal recycling pleadings to murder trials. One of my major accomplishments was researching the new Waters of the U.S. Rule and helping draft a written letter to have the RI Attorney General sign on in support of the EPA. Overall, it was an incredible learning and professional experience that definitely shaped my future career goals.

I expected this internship to help me decide whether or school. After taking Environmental Policy and Law with Phil



Gabby Palko

Kannan at CC, I strongly considered pursuing a career in law because I was so inspired by the amount of positive change one can create through diligent legal practice. After this internship I'm not so sure I want to become a lawyer, but am leaning more towards the policy and advocacy side of things. I definitely see grad school in my near future to help me pursue my career/life goal of creating positive systematic change.

Charlotte "Loon" Cadow, Class of 2017

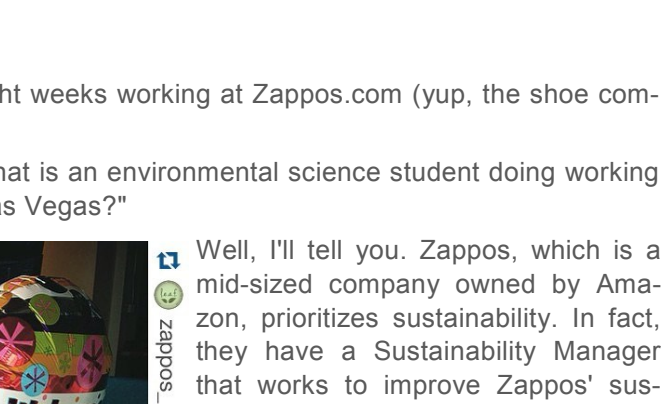
A Loony Escapade: Hiking the Appalachian Trail

On Friday, March 13th of this year, I set out in the freezing rain to tag the top of Mount Springer in Georgia. This one mile backtrail was the beginning of a 5 month trek that would take me up the spine of the Appalachian Mountains. The trail would wind through 14 states and 2189.2 miles. I would be exposed to snow, rain, hail-storms, extreme thunder and lightning, and high velocity wind. Eventually, I would follow the Appalachian Trail (AT) to the summit of Mount Katahdin, Maine.

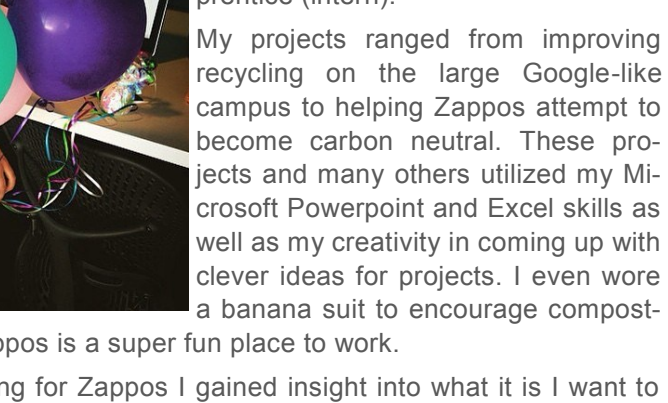
During the 154 days I spent on the trail name "Loon," my mind often wandered back to Colorado College. A weeklong field trip to Cata-mount with the Environmental Inquiry class inspired the intentions that I carried with me through every mile of trail. At Catamount, we were encouraged to investigate our personal relationship with the environment through activities such as a peace pipe ceremony, a shamanistic journey, tai chi, and a solo in the woods. The reflections from this experience shaped the realization that I needed to build a personal foundation of self-understanding before I could continue to delve into my pursuit of knowledge at CC. The AT allowed me to dive into the meaning of presence, to observe nature's beautiful patterns and dances through the seasons, to experience a self-facilitated education, and to master the practice of daydreaming.

10 days after reaching the northern terminus of the AT, I found myself sitting in Shove Chapel listening to Doug Pray give a speech on "Serious Spontaneity." As I laughed along with the crowd, and appreciated the wit and depth of the speech, I found myself connecting, and yet disagreeing with one specific element. Doug said that it's okay to explore off the beaten path, as long as you have a map of the area where you wander. In the time since I completed my thru-hike, I have realized how important it is to be vulnerable, and often that vulnerability means entering a situation without any understanding of what lies ahead. Being prepared is certainly important, but flexibility and self-confidence have become more central to my personal philosophy than insuring my experiences through reliance on a guide or a map.

The AT is much more than just a trail; it is an experience that provides a metaphorical structure on which to base a lifestyle. Through the ritual of hiking back-to-back "20's" (20+ mile days), and the unexpected delights that arose every day, I learned the importance of exercising the muscle of spontaneity, the bliss of a minimalistic lifestyle, the power and capability of a healthy body, self-love, and the most essential elements of who I am.



Charlotte with her "tramily" (trail family) crossing the New Hampshire-Maine border



Charlotte descending Mount Katahdin after finishing the AT

Holly Moynahan, Class of 2015

This past summer, I spent eight weeks working at Zappos.com (yup, the shoe company) in Las Vegas, Nevada.

You are probably thinking " what is an environmental science student doing working at an online retail company in Las Vegas?"

Well, I'll tell you. Zappos, which is a mid-sized company owned by Amazon, prioritizes sustainability. In fact, they have a Sustainability Manager that works to improve Zappos' sustainability and reduce impact. That's where I came in - I was the Zappos.com Summer Sustainability Apprentice (intern).

My projects ranged from improving recycling on the large Google-like campus to helping Zappos attempt to become carbon neutral. These projects and many others utilized my Microsoft PowerPoint and Excel skills as well as my creativity in coming up with clever ideas for projects. I even wore a banana suit to encourage composting in the Bistro! In general, Zappos is a super fun place to work.

Through my experience working for Zappos I gained insight into what it is I want to do for a career as well as a sense of where, location wise, I will be happiest thanks to my internship. In addition, the professional experience I received is also something I am extremely grateful for: I learned SO much about corporate sustainability and have a much stronger understanding of what sorts of positions exist in the field.

What did I learn from this experience? Definitely that you cannot give up. If a career path feels right, PURSUE IT! Then hone in on a company you would feel proud to work for. If it doesn't work out, DO NOT give up! I reached out to over thirty companies and was accepted by only two. They both happened to be pretty awesome opportunities, so I feel lucky with that, but it just goes to show that the more you try to get, the higher your chances of being accepted to at least one!

So yeah, that was my experience working at Zappos. It was AWE-SOME and I feel so grateful for it. Although graduation is nearing for me (I graduate in December, EEK!), I am so excited about what the future might hold for me.

Holly Moynahan

Holly Moynahan meditating