



# AmeriCorps Cape Cod - Year 17

## Bourne House

**Jordanna Barley:** My name is Jordanna, but most people call me Jori for short! I am 21 years old and have just recently graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from St. Mary's College of Maryland. I grew up in Maryland, about 30 minutes outside both DC and Baltimore. My college experience required me to take many classes, my favorites being Ecology and Evolution and Coastal Ecology. I also studied abroad for one semester in Dublin, Ireland at the University College Dublin, where I learned much more about wildlife conservation as well as habitat restoration. I have also been able to do some of my own research- I carried out an experiment testing how the increase of carbon in the oceans has an effect on sea grass defense mechanisms. I have also worked with the United States Geological Survey as a Crane Technician Intern, where I aided in the rearing of endangered Whooping Cranes. These birds were then released into the wild as part of a project to increase the population of Whooping Cranes in North America.

I very much enjoy working outdoors with both wildlife and habitat conservation and I am not afraid to get my hands dirty! I love doing outdoor activities such as rock climbing, hiking and camping. I am very excited to see what I can give to the community of Cape Cod, humans and non-humans alike!

**Amber Carter:** I am 22 years old and from Boyertown, Pennsylvania. Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, PA has been my second home for the last four years, where I earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geoscience with a minor in Italian. Through my college coursework, I have been fortunate enough to travel to Italy to study abroad for a summer, as well as Hawaii and out west to the Rocky Mountains to study geology.

While at F&M, I did geochemistry research on sediment pollution in Mid-Atlantic waterways and the Chesapeake Bay, and I hope to go on to graduate school and continue in that field. In my spare time I enjoy singing, reading, hiking, running, and being outside! I'm excited to spend a year on Cape Cod learning about the environment and helping the community!

**Britta Dornfeld:** Hi! I'm a 22-year old from Owatonna, Minnesota. I graduated in May from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota with a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies. While at Macalester, I also minored in Geology, Geography and Arabic. I studied abroad in Jordan to improve my Arabic skills and also to explore environmental issues that affect desert landscapes. I worked at the exact opposite of the desert during my college summers, though! I was an outfitter at Sawbill Canoe Outfitters in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) in northeastern Minnesota. While at Sawbill, I helped get outdoor enthusiasts the proper equipment to explore the BWCAW and advised them on the best routes. I also explored the wilderness area, and learned about the issues affecting it. Working in the BWCAW was great, because I love to canoe and hike. I'm excited to live and serve on Cape Cod, and discover the beauty of the natural landscape there.

**Parker Gunn:** I am a big dude, with a big appetite to serve! I am 22 years old and from Martinsville, Virginia. I graduated from Roanoke College with a B.A. in Communication Studies. While at Roanoke College, I was the president and member of the all-male a cappella group, Looking For an Echo. I enjoy being outdoors and was selected in 2010 for the Virginia Youth Conservation Corps, working at Claytor Lake and New River Trail State Parks for three weeks. I maintained trails, did landscaping and masonry work, and cleaned up shorelines. This experience solidified my passion to serve and protect the environment.

I am an avid videographer, making short videos for personal use. I am a musician, write songs, and play guitar. I played guitar and was the lead singer in my funk/rock band, Wagalaba. I love to work hard and get dirty! I love being sweaty because I know I have done something meaningful. I enjoy being in water, whether it's swimming, kayaking, canoeing, or tubing! I love to play sports, lift weights, and mountain bike. The farthest

north I have been is Pennsylvania, so I am very excited to see a part of the country I have never seen before! I can't wait to meet new people, serve with them, and give back to Cape Cod!

**Ben Howard:** I am from Central Ohio and grew up in a family that hosted many exchange students. When I got to college I had the chance to go to study in Brazil. I speak Portuguese and love Brazilian culture. Since returning from Brazil and graduating, I worked a couple years and returned to The Ohio State University to do the Master of Public Administration program. I am a big picture person that enjoys being involved in the implementation phase of projects and initiatives. I am studying public administration, because I want to be effective in serving the community that I am a part of. I have long-term goals of working in local government management and have an interest in development and water. Working on environmental conservation and water resource management on the Cape will give me important experience for helping communities in the future. I have an interest in both local and global issues and hope to use my experience this year to serve my future local community as well as an international community in development efforts, maybe as a volunteer, consultant, or otherwise. I believe investing in your community is important and I am excited to be part of the Cape Cod community this year. I hope to use this experience as a foundation for a capstone research project when I return to school for my last semester. Beyond that I look forward to making some new friends, and plan to use my free time enjoying good company, sports, reading, music (trying to learn the harmonica), and living life!

**Rosie Manzo:** I grew up in Central Massachusetts, spending many summers on the North Shore, swimming, kayaking, and learning to deeply appreciate being outside and around the ocean. I graduated from Eastern Connecticut State University in 2012 with a major in Sociology and minors in both Spanish and Renewable Energy Studies. I was fortunate enough during my time there to spend a semester studying in California, as well as a few weeks in Ghana. I grew up playing softball and continued to play through college. I've realized that being on some sort of team and being a part of something larger than yourself is something I am absolutely passionate about.

After college, I worked as a Residential Counselor and a Day Program Coordinator for a non-profit organization called The Bridge of Central Massachusetts, which serves individuals diagnosed with mental health challenges and developmental disabilities. Prior to joining AmeriCorps Cape Cod, I served in a program called Green Iowa AmeriCorps, which provides home energy audits and weatherization's for populations in need, as well as energy conservation education and outreach programs. AmeriCorps has been an amazing experience, from all of the interesting and passionate people I have met and worked with at countless community events, to all the things I've absorbed about energy and environmental conservation. I will miss Iowa a great deal, but I am excited to come back home and begin a new adventure on Cape Cod.

**Nicole Mucci:** Hi! I am 22 years old and grew up in the great state of Rhode Island. I am a recent graduate of the University of Vermont and studied biology and environmental sciences. Some of my environmental experiences include volunteering at ECHO aquarium in Burlington, VT and working as an education intern aboard the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater. I love the Atlantic Ocean and the Green Mountains, and spend my free time biking, baking, and reading good books.

**Nicole Orzechowski:** I am 23 years old and was born and raised in Connecticut. As a child I was always fascinated by the outdoors and wanted to learn more about it. As I got older that interest continued to grow and when I got accepted to the University of Connecticut I knew right away that I would be majoring in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and minoring in Environmental Studies. Currently, I am finishing up my Master's degree in Biodiversity and Conservation Biology at UConn. I enjoy learning new things, meeting new people and being outdoors; I am also addicted to sushi, I love to laugh, and as a New Englander I'm ashamed to admit that I have never been to Cape Cod! However, I am very excited about this upcoming year on the Cape and can't wait to see where this experience will take me.

**Bennett Payne:** I am 21 years old and was born and raised in Fredericksburg, VA. For the past 3 years, I attended James Madison University where I studied Integrated Science and Technology. I enjoy running, playing music, watching sports (especially

my favorite team, the Baltimore Ravens), as well as camping and fishing. I achieved the rank of Eagle Scout when I was 15. Through the process of scouting I found my love for the great outdoors! Scouting also instilled in me the importance of serving others. Some of my favorite experiences volunteering have been coaching youth basketball, traveling to the Skid Row area of Los Angeles, California where I worked in missions for the homeless, and performing trail restoration on a Virginia Civil War trail. I'm looking forward to broadening my horizons and meeting new friends as I serve the beautiful Cape Cod area through AmeriCorps Cape Cod.

**Breanne Penkala:** I am a 22 year old from Cumberland, Rhode Island. I recently graduated from Stonehill College in Easton, MA with a double major in Sociology and Psychology and a minor in Environmental Studies. Originally set on becoming a social worker, my liberal arts education steered me in a different path and allowed me to cultivate many diverse passions. I spent a semester abroad in Perugia, Italy, studying Italian food and culture, which helped me find my passion for food and deepen my passion for the environment, my community, and my health. I used this knowledge to start a Real Food Challenge Chapter at Stonehill, incorporating more sustainable and just food in our dining hall. I have also worked in a garden center/nursery for the past few summers, attaining knowledge on how to grow unique varieties of flowers, shrubs, and even fruit trees. In my free time, I enjoy exploring the outdoors (walking, hiking, biking, running, kayaking), playing tennis and soccer, traveling, and reading. I am very excited to serve with ACC this year to continue developing my passions and explore other aspects of the environment as well!

**Amber Rosa:** I was born in New Bedford, MA and was raised in the beach town Melbourne, FL, which is located about an hour south of Kennedy Space Center. My family has a house on Cape Cod and I have been visiting since I was very young. Growing up surrounded by water instilled a love for marine biology at an early age. I attended the University of South Florida, where I received my bachelor's degree in Biology with a focus in Marine Biology and Ecology. While in college, I participated in an Alternative Spring Break trip to Cumberland Island, GA, where a small group of USF students and I performed trail restoration and maintenance of places where early

natives, explorers and industrialists once lived. I also volunteered at The Florida Aquarium for two years during college and after graduation, I became an intern there. Following my internship at the aquarium, I worked at SeaWorld Orlando in the aquarium department where I had the opportunity to take care of stingrays and sharks. While I enjoyed my job working with marine animals I did not like living in the middle of the state away from the water and in the land of tourists, so I decided to move back to Tampa and became a science teacher. After a few years of teaching, I realized it was not for me and wanted to get back into working in the environmental science field. So, I moved up to Cape Cod to be closer to my family and immerse myself in an area known for marine biology, nature, and beautiful beaches. While here I learned about AmeriCorps Cape Cod and decided to join this wonderful institution. I am looking forward to this exciting challenge and learning more about the environmental field!

**Jeff Rossi:** I was born and raised in Northborough, Massachusetts. In May 2015, I graduated from Cornell University with a degree in Biology and Chemistry. I am interested in health sciences and hope to go to medical school one day. At Cornell, I participated in several conservation research projects including a black bear study in the Southern Tier of New York and a limnology study at the Cornell Biological Field Station. Having lived in Massachusetts my whole life, I am very excited to spend a year participating in AmeriCorps Cape Cod. I hope to get involved with conservation projects and to try my best to engage the community to discuss the issues and figure out solutions. Engaging the community is the most important component of the position, because service volunteers make up only a very small fraction of the total people in the community. Increasing participation is an effective way to accomplish the goals of the program. In my free time I enjoy spending time outside and being active. I also enjoy playing and watching sports and I am a big fan of Boston sports teams. I am looking forward to AmeriCorps Cape Cod, because the Cape is one of the most beautiful and exciting places in the world.

**Christine Viola:** Hello! My name is Christine, I am 23 years old, and I was born and raised in Melrose, Massachusetts. I graduated from North Carolina State University with a B.S. in Environmental Science with a soil science concentration and a crop science

minor. My love for the environment was inspired by a trip in high school to Costa Rica with my environmental science class. At NC State, I was a part of the Wolfpack Environmental Club, the Marching Band, and the Club field hockey team. Some of my passions include running, fitness, scrapbooking, and relaxing by the water. I consider myself an easy going person who is always open to new challenges. I have always enjoyed helping others, and when I saw the work that AmeriCorps Cape Cod was doing, I knew I had to be a part of it. I can't wait to serve with the other members to make a difference in the community. I spent many summers as a kid vacationing on the Cape, so I am eager to be a part of something that allows me to serve a community so close to home, and is something I am truly passionate about. I look forward to all that is to come and the memories I will make as a member of AmeriCorps Cape Cod!

## **LeHac House**

**Lauren Bonatakis:** Hi there! I was born and raised in western Massachusetts. I am 24 years old and graduated from Simmons College in Boston in 2013 with a B.S. in Biology and Environmental Science. Shortly after graduating, I moved to Nashville, Tennessee where I worked as a research assistant in a lab at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Though I enjoyed Tennessee, I found myself missing the ocean and decided to come back to New England during the summer of 2015. Despite working in biomedical research, I have always had a passion for marine ecology and environmental conservation. During college I worked with aquatic salamanders, cavefish, and seahorses and I conducted my senior research project on seahorse behavior. I also participated in annual volunteer activities to clean up the Muddy River in Boston. I am very interested in pursuing a career in marine conservation and this, combined with my love for Cape Cod and my personal belief in giving back to the community is why I decided to join AmeriCorps. In my spare time I enjoy outdoor activities such as hiking, exploring, and camping. I love spending time with animals (especially dogs!) and I am also a huge music fan— I spend a lot of time researching, listening to, and seeing new music. I am very excited to meet new people, learn, and serve this year in AmeriCorps Cape Cod!

**Aaron Brisley:** I am 26 years old and from Roanoke County, Virginia. While I grew up in the Blue Ridge Mountains, my passion has always been with our planet's coastal and marine ecosystems. I graduated from Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia in May 2014, where I earned my Bachelors of Science in Environmental Studies with a concentration in Environmental Science. As part of my education, I studied abroad in Baja California Sur, Mexico, where I focused on the marine biodiversity of the Gulf of California. In the spring of 2015, I completed an internship with the Stranding Response Team at the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center in Virginia Beach, Virginia. I spent this past summer interning with the Ocean Isle Beach Sea Turtle Protection Organization in North Carolina. I enjoy golf, volleyball, snorkeling, reading, the outdoors, the beach, traveling (one of the items on my bucket list is to visit all fifty states), and watching sports (especially college football and the New England Patriots)! Serving with AmeriCorps Cape Cod is going to be a great experience to help me pursue my dream career in marine and coastal conservation, and I cannot wait to get started!

**Emily Fink:** I am 24 years old and I have lived on Cape Cod my whole life. I recently graduated from Bridgewater State University with a degree in Philosophy and a concentration in Applied Ethics. My favorite course as an undergrad was environmental ethics, which allowed me to develop an interest in environmental issues and, ultimately, led me to join AmeriCorps Cape Cod. I am excited to learn more about the Cape and to give back to the wonderful place I have called home all these years. In my free time I enjoy singing, tennis, and anything beach-related. I eventually hope to pursue a master's degree in Environmental Ethics and Policy.

**Sydney Fitch:** I am 22 years old and just graduated with high honors from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire with a Bachelors of Business Administration in Business Management, and a certificate in Advanced Business Communications. I grew up in Madison, Wisconsin and I am proud to call myself a Cheesehead! And for those of you wondering, yes cheese is one of my favorite foods ☺. I've learned to cope with the Wisconsin winters by snowboarding, participating in snowball fights and sledding. I always take full advantage of the beautiful Wisconsin summers by hiking, swimming, rollerblading, biking, and exploring.

I have always been passionate about the environment. From my childhood explorations in the woods surrounding my neighborhood, to my more recent travels across Europe, hiking the rolling hills in Ireland, and admiring the beautiful landscape off of the English Channel, it has been easy to see the value of the natural world and understand the importance of protecting our amazing planet. I am thrilled to serve the Cape Cod community and contribute to the protection of our natural resources. I am looking forward to the adventures to come as a member of the AmeriCorps program.

**Kathleen Fitzgerald:** Hello! I am 22 years old and grew up in Northern New Jersey in the rural town of West Milford. I just recently earned a degree in Psychology with a minor in Creative Writing at Ramapo College of New Jersey. I have been competitively swimming throughout the state of New York since the age of six and have been vacationing on Cape Cod every summer for just as long. I served as a lifeguard for seven years at various lakes around my community and as an employee of a New Jersey State Park. I have a great appreciation for the outdoors and I can't wait for the adventure that awaits me on the Cape!

**Maggie Gardner:** I am a 23 year old North Carolinian who ended up heading to the Midwest to attend Washington University in St. Louis. I graduated with a love of encouraging sustainability to just about anyone who will listen and a degree in environmental biology. In my quest to absorb all I could about environmental biology during my four years at WashU, I have done everything from gawking at baby sea turtles and chasing baby alligators out of garages to hugging trees and fighting off ticks with rolls of duck tape during my internships on the North Carolina coast and a bit more inland in the Ozarks of Missouri at the Bald Head Island Conservancy and the Tyson Research Center respectively. I also conducted population censuses of deer and alligator, monitored dune erosion and vegetation growth, performed mortality and seedling censuses of trees, and mentored high schools students in field research during those internships. In addition, I studied abroad for a summer in the Mediterranean region focusing on marine biology and ecology through Semester at Sea and in Australia for a semester focusing on rainforest, reef, and cultural ecology through the field based School for International Training (SIT) program. I am excited to head back to

the coast to join the Cape Cod community. I am an avid runner and love swimming, reading a good book, tie-dying and exploring new places, especially new ecosystems.

**Jake Garringer:** A Coeur d'Alene, Idaho native, I graduated from Lewis University with a degree in International Relations and minors in Environmental Science and Arabic Language and Culture. Growing up in North Idaho instilled in me a love of the outdoors, and I enjoy a range of activities, including backpacking, skiing, hiking, and fishing. My outdoor interests translated into a passion for environmental sustainability and protection, and I enjoy studying policy as well as working outdoors. Professionally, I am interested in foreign affairs and international economics, and I look forward to graduate school. Outside of work and school, I strive to volunteer and be civically engaged, and I also enjoy swimming, running, and traveling. I am excited to be a part of AmeriCorps Cape Cod and have the opportunity to serve the local community and benefit the environment.

**Danielle Lacouture:** I am originally from Brockton, Massachusetts and grew up there as well as in Lakeville, MA. Being from southeastern Massachusetts, I visited the Cape a lot growing up and I am thrilled to be back and living there this year. I moved to Fort Myers, Florida in high school and continued living in the state to attend college at the University of South Florida in Tampa where I earned a degree in geography. While in school I became interested in the environment through my studies and joined student organizations that promoted conservation and community involvement. I also worked with children throughout college as a camp counselor, lifeguard, and recreation leader while getting involved with foreign cultural groups on campus. This cross-cultural exposure and experience working with kids led me to move to Taiwan after I graduated to live and work as an English teacher. Now back in the US, I am looking forward to becoming involved again with sustainability and am excited to be serving with AmeriCorps Cape Cod. I really enjoy running, hiking, practicing Chinese, exploring the outdoors, and playing tennis and field hockey.

**Olivia Martin:** I was born in Norwich, CT and raised in Griswold, CT. After graduating

high school I served my first term in AmeriCorps NCCC serving out of the Southwest Region. This was my first introduction to disaster recovery related activities and was certainly the most interesting aspect of serving. A few years later I was a proud to become a member of the inaugural class of AmeriCorps NCCC FEMA Corps serving out of the North Central Region. Throughout my service with AmeriCorps NCCC, I have had much exposure to Disaster relief and response. In my first year, I was an active responder to Hurricane Ike working in Disaster Recovery Centers in Galveston, TX and surrounding areas. And in my second year much of my term was spent in New Jersey directly after Hurricane Sandy hit working with FEMA in assisting with their efforts to best serve the citizens of New Jersey. Throughout my experiences, coastal ecosystems and their importance have always interested me. My interests include computers, reading, crocheting, and gardening. I am greatly looking forward to spending time with AmeriCorps Cape Cod and learning what I can about both coastal ecosystems and the local communities!

**Emily McDermott:** Hi, I am twenty three years old. I graduated from the University of New Hampshire, with a bachelor degree in zoology. I'm interested in conservation genetics and behavioral ecology. I spent the last year in the beautiful Kenneth Dubuque State Forest, in western Massachusetts as part of the Student Conservation Association Massachusetts AmeriCorps program. I taught environmental education in local elementary schools throughout the winter. In the summer I traveled all over Massachusetts working in different state parks restoring trails. I enjoy spending time outside swimming and hiking. I love to read, to cook and hang out with friends. I grew up in Massachusetts and spent my summers on the Cape. I am excited to spend more time within the Cape Cod Community.

**Matthew Moser:** Hello! I am 21 years old and I call St. Louis, Missouri home but spent some of my earliest years growing up in Ukraine. After two years at Jefferson College, I decided to broaden my horizons and study the art of painting in Kentucky. I'm a fun loving, easy going, and friendly guy. You can usually find me working on computers with friends or basking in the AC on a hot day. My passions include helping others, working with animals, and polishing off a plate of peach crepes. I'm looking forward to coming to

Cape Cod for the first time. I can't wait to find my place in the community and help out a great cause along the way.

**Leah Mould:** I am 22 and hail from Upstate NY. I recently graduated from the University of Rochester with a degree in Environmental Science with high honors in research. My senior thesis explored how humans are exposed to dioxins, an environmental pollutant, and its potential effect on immune systems. While in college, I was privileged to be able to study abroad in Cape Town, South Africa for a semester, where I learned about environmental and eco-justice related issues the country is struggling with. I also participated in my school's environmental activism club, Grassroots, where we held a yearly Earth Day celebration, along with many other activities to raise awareness about sustainable living. I love being outdoors whether gardening or hiking, though my main passion is birding. I also enjoy reading, singing and art. I am extremely excited for this coming year on Cape Cod and can't wait to enjoy all the experiences this opportunity will bring!

**David Ushakow:** I am 24 years old and am originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. For the past five years I have lived in Boulder, Colorado where I recently graduated from the University of Colorado with a bachelors degree in environmental studies. During my undergraduate career, I was a member of the Golden Buffalo Marching Band. Additionally, in the summer of 2013 I completed a population survey on the fishes of Las Cruces Biological Station in Coto Brus, Costa Rica. In my free time, I enjoy hiking, fishing, camping, listening to music, and photography. I am looking forward to meeting new people and serving the Cape Cod community throughout the upcoming year.

## **Wells House**

**Andrew Bond:** I am 20 years old and from Medfield, Massachusetts. I graduated from the Vermont Technical College (VTC) with an associate degree in Fire Science. While in college, I was the president of the VTC First Responders Club, which responded to all medical emergencies on campus. I was also a volunteer fire fighter with the Randolph Center Fire Department. My experience in disaster preparedness comes from Boy Scouts and other trainings in emergency preparedness I have completed. My other

interests include Mountain Biking, Hiking, Camping and Fishing. I am excited to have this chance to continue my education and gain more experience in disaster response and wildland firefighting.

**Lars Boyd:** I am 21 years old, and from a small town in north central Iowa called Eagle Grove. I attended Iowa State University and graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelors of Science in Anthropology and Criminology. My environmental experience includes working for Wright County Conservation of the summer of 2013, where I was able to maintain and patrol the county parks and outdoor recreation areas. As well as conducting archaeological fieldwork in Wisconsin and Michigan for multiple cultural resource management companies since graduating college in December 2014. My personal interests include traveling, history, science, cooking, sports, weight lifting, and outdoor activities. I am looking forward to serving with AmeriCorps Cape Cod and for all the memories that will be made.

**Joe Figliozzi:** Hey! I am 21 years old and from southern Rhode Island. I attended the University of Rhode Island where I mostly took general education courses. I have a varied background of work experience. However, a lot of it involves working with children, including as a camp counselor this past summer. I am an outdoor kind of person and am really into sports. I like a lot of different music and play the drums, as well. I also enjoy just watching a good movie.

**Tyler Martin:** Hello! I was born and raised in Bourbonnais, Illinois, about an hour south of Chicago. I am currently a Community Leadership and Civic Engagement major with a History minor at Northern Illinois University (Go Huskies!). At NIU, I am a trip leader and take students out on different outdoor adventures, including hiking and backpacking trips, daily snowboarding trips, and camping weekends. I aspire to work with museums for the remainder of my life. I am an alumnus of AmeriCorps NCCC Southwest region's Class 20A. This experience jump started my desire to work in the non-profit sector. My hobbies include slacklining, hammocking, watching the Patriots play, playing Magic: The Gathering, and attending music festivals. I have never been out to the New England area, but I am beyond excited for the opportunity to move out to the coast and help make a difference.

**James Rynes:** Hello!! I am 22 years old and from Akron, Ohio. I graduated college in the Spring of 2015 with a Bachelor's in Environmental Science and a minor in Spanish. I intend to go to grad school for water resource management or environmental consultancy after serving in AmeriCorps. I have taken numerous classes and labs focused on environmental issues, led environmental cleanup programs at college and traveled to southwest India and England to explore environmental and sustainability issues. I enjoy exercising, traveling, drumming, cooking and chocolate milk.

**Weston Stitt:** I was born in Birmingham, AL but grew up, and still reside, in Charleston, SC. I am 22 years old and a recent graduate from Sewanee: The University of the South. I finished with a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources. Also, while at Sewanee I minored in History and played four years of men's varsity soccer, earning the position of captain my junior and senior years. It was during my time at Sewanee where I developed an interest for learning about my surroundings. Apart from the vast forests and ancient geology of the Cumberland Plateau, I was able to gain knowledge and field experience away from school, but with Sewanee students and faculty. One place I was able to gain experience was during the summer of 2013 on St. Catherine's Island, GA where I participated in Sewanee's Island Ecology Program. While there I studied barrier island ecology, took part in prescribed burns, and completed several individual reports on the different forests of the island. Having the opportunity to study the world at such an intimate level, I was able to gain an appreciation for the environment in which I grew up.

In the summer of 2014 I interned for the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy working as a horticulture assistant. This experience was important for me, as I was able to learn about how green spaces in urban areas are developed and their overreaching effects on the community. It was here where I participated in community engagement and organization. It is my hope to continue to develop my passion for improving coastal environments while spending a year on Cape Cod.