

Stella Potemkin
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Education

Dartmouth College – Hanover, NH 2025-Present

PhD Program in Ecology, Evolution, Environment, and Society
Advisor: Dr. Justin Mankin

Rice University – Houston, TX 2019-2023

B.A. Earth, Environmental, and Planetary Science and Social Policy Analysis
GPA 3.95

Honors Thesis: “Understanding Phosphorus Mobility in Arclogites”

Relevant Course Work: Climate Dynamics,

School for Field Studies – Puerto Natales, Chile 2022

Study abroad program

Directed Research Project: “Correlation Between Geomorphological Features and Macroinvertebrate Species Richness in Southern Patagonia”

Honors and Awards

Distinction in Undergraduate Research

George Miner Rice University Service Award Recipient 2023

Eugen Merten Memorial Prize in Geology and Geophysics Award Recipient 2022

Houston Geological Society Undergraduate Scholarship Recipient 2021-2022

Research Experience

Rice University, Earth Environment, and Planetary Science Department

August 2022- May 2023

Advisors: Dr. Cin-ty Lee and Dr. Duncan Keller

“Understanding Phosphorus Mobility in Arclogites”

Collected mineral chemistry data using EPMA WDS and analyzed it with whole rock data. The analysis focused on understanding mineral contributions to the whole rock phosphorus budget to better understand phosphorus mobility deep in continental arc settings. Developed a method using Image J to estimate mineral volumes from thin sections.

Rice University, Social Policy Analysis Capstone Research

August 2022- May 2023

Advisors: Dr. Steven Perry and Dr. Katherine Byers

“Analyzing Drivers of Rural Food Insecurity and Policy Interventions in Texas”

Designed a mixed methods study investigating the dynamics of rural food insecurity in collaboration with the Houston Food Bank. Conducted semi-structured interviews with rural food bank users, policymakers, and food bank staff. Ran OLS regressions using publicly available data to understand drivers of rural food insecurity and propose potential policy interventions.

School for Field Studies, Center for Climate Studies Directed Research

March 2022 – May 2022

Advisor: Dr. Shaw Lacy

“Correlation Between Geomorphological Features and Macroinvertebrate Species Richness in Southern Patagonia”

Collected samples of aquatic macroinvertebrates and measured geomorphologic features such as average grain size of sediment to understand the relationship between physical habitat and species richness in Southern Patagonia.

Relevant Work Experience

Shanta Foundation, Development Intern – Mazabuka, Zambia

June 2024 – August 2025

Assisted with program design and management of community-led women’s and girls’ empowerment, community bank, and infrastructure projects in rural Zambia. Developed and implemented monitoring and evaluation frameworks. Created social media content.

Constantine Mining, Geotechnician – Haines, Alaska

August 2023 – October 2023

Collected geotechnical data for drill core. Logged core and worked on associated geological interpretation and data entry. Conducted water sampling and surveying at drill pads and well sites for reclamation and monitoring purposes.

Skills

R Studio, Matlab, Python, QGIS, Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel