

Missoula, MT 59801

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KAITLIN PERKINS

SKILLS & ABILITIES Graduate student in ecology with excellent communication skills, contributing energy, ideas, and enthusiasm. An appreciation of diversity and the ability to learn well from others. Creative, flexible, and determined. Strong leadership and entrepreneurial view. Programming languages include R statistical software, LaTeX, and SigmaPlot. Experience in statistical analysis, technical writing, and field and lab work.

GOALS Pursue practice and research in aquatic sciences and natural resource management. Objectives are to apply knowledge to tackle complex watershed issues post-MS. Passions include environmental education and outreach.

EDUCATION

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SYSTEMS ECOLOGY, UM BRIDGES TRAINEESHIP
University of Montana, Missoula, Montana
Expected graduation: November 2020

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY WITH HONORS, MINORS IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS, CERTIFICATE IN QUANTITATIVE BIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY SCHOLARS HONORS PROGRAM
Fall 2013 – May 2017
Washington State University Vancouver, Vancouver, Washington
GPA: 3.74, with honors

SEA SEMESTER – WOODS HOLE, MA & NEW ZEALAND
September 2014 – December 2014
Global Oceans Program – Oceanography, Conservation, Leadership, and Cultural Studies
Studied in Woods Hole, MA for 6 weeks and on a 135' sailing school research vessel in the waters of New Zealand for 6 weeks. Developed leadership, maintenance, sailing, and navigation skills on the ship through participation as a crew member. Gained research experience through equipment deployment and work in the onboard lab. Rotated as Junior Watch Officer and Junior Lab Officer modeling appropriate safety procedures and maintaining proper ship operations.

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE
Clark College, Vancouver, Washington
GPA: 3.0, Graduated Spring 2013

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE **ECOSYSTEMS LAB, UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA**
Graduate Research Assistant, August 2017 - present

Pursuing Master's in Systems Ecology under the mentorship of Dr. Ben Colman focused on investigating the role of size and particle interactions in metal transport in the Upper Clark Fork River, Montana. Responsibilities include regular sample collection and analysis using size fractionation, dynamic light scattering, and spectrofluorometric analysis.

AQUATIC ECOLOGY LAB, WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY VANCOUVER

Undergraduate Researcher, August 2015 – August 2017

Investigating the vertical distribution of phytoplankton in relation to hypoxia in Lacamas Lake under the mentorship of Dr. Gretchen Rollwagen-Bollens. The project was accepted into the University Scholars Honors Program and is a continuation of work accomplished in the REU Program. Research has been accepted by *Lake and Reservoir Management* for publication.

NSF REU FELLOWSHIP, WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY VANCOUVER

Undergraduate Researcher, June 2015 – August 2015

Landscape Ecology and Ecosystem Dynamics in the Columbia River Basin

Awarded REU Fellowship for a position in the Aquatic Ecology lab at Washington State University Vancouver under Dr. Gretchen Rollwagen-Bollens. Spent nine weeks investigating the vertical distribution of phytoplankton in Lacamas Lake, WA in relation to hypoxia. Gained skills in background research, method and equipment preparation, sample collection and analysis, and proposal writing. Presented work at REU poster session at Washington State University Vancouver. Attended workshops focused on research and writing ethics, manuscript writing, poster creation, and planning for graduate school.

DIRECTED OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH, SEA SEMESTER, WOODS HOLE & NEW ZEALAND

Student Researcher, September 2014 – December 2014

Researched the density of micro and macroplastics in the ocean waters of New Zealand. Designed and carried out the project with two other students under the guidance of mentor Deb Goodwin. Conducted background research and finalized sampling design on shore, with all sample collection, analysis, and interpretation occurring at sea.

TRAINING

UM BRIDGES TRAINEE, WATER-ENERGY-FOOD NEXUS GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

University of Montana, 2017 – present

NSF-funded graduate training program that focuses on applied science at the nexus of food, energy, and water. Training complements thesis research through applied and interdisciplinary skills development. Engaged in classes and workshops focused on science communication, policy, bridging science and practice, and complex issues at the food-energy-water nexus.

SELECT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

PUBLICATIONS

Perkins, K. R. et al. Lake and Reservoir Management Variability in the vertical distribution of chlorophyll in a spill-managed temperate reservoir. *Lake and Reservoir Management*. 0, 1–8 (2019).

PRESENTATIONS

Perkins, K, Montaño, M, Colman, B. Oral Presentation Characterizing sub-micron metal particles in a mine waste contaminated river to better understand potential exposure. GradCon, Missoula, MT, January 2020.

Perkins, K, Montaño, M, Colman, B. Poster Presentation, Examining the Abundance and Composition of Submicron Particles in a Mine-waste Contaminated Intermountain West River. EPSCoR National Conference, Columbia, SC, October 2019.

Perkins, K, Montaño, M, Colman, B. Poster Presentation, Examining the Abundance and Composition of Submicron Particles in a Mine-waste Contaminated Intermountain West River. Montana American Water Resources Association, Red Lodge, MT, October 2019.

Perkins, K, Montaño, M, Colman, B. Poster Presentation, Examining the Abundance and Composition of Submicron Particles in a Mine-waste Contaminated Intermountain West River. EPSCoR All Hands Meeting, Butte, MT, October 2019.

Perkins, K, Montaño, M, Colman, B. Poster Presentation, Prospecting for Submicron Metal Particles in a Mine Waste Contaminated. Society for Freshwater Sciences conference, Salt Lake City, UT, May 2019.

Perkins, K, Montaño, M, Colman, B. Poster Presentation, Size, associations, and distribution of mining contaminants in the Upper Clark Fork River, Montana. Montana Aquatic Research Consortium conference, April 2019.

Perkins, K, Montaño, M, Colman, B. Poster Presentation, Size, associations, and distribution of mining contaminants in the Upper Clark Fork River, Montana. Montana EPSCoR conference, February 2019.

Perkins, K, Montaño, M, Colman, B. Poster Presentation, Size, associations, and distribution of mining contaminants in the Upper Clark Fork River, Montana. GradCon, University of Montana, February 2019.

Perkins, K, Rollwagen-Bollens G, Bollens S, Zimmerman, J. Influence of environmental factors on vertical distribution of phytoplankton in Lacamas Lake, WA. Air & Waste Management Association Oregon Chapter Student Environmental Challenge.

Perkins K, Rollwagen-Bollens G, Bollens S, Zimmerman, J. Influence of environmental factors on vertical distribution of phytoplankton in Lacamas Lake, WA. Washington State University Vancouver Research Showcase. April 2016.

Perkins K, Rollwagen-Bollens G, Bollens S, Zimmerman J. Influence of environmental factors on vertical distribution of phytoplankton in Lacamas Lake, WA. Murdock Charitable Trust College Science Research Program, Vancouver, WA. November 2015.

Perkins K, Rollwagen-Bollens G, Bollens S, Zimmerman J. Influence of environmental factors on vertical distribution of phytoplankton in Lacamas Lake, WA. Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium, WSU Vancouver. August 2015.

AWARDS

CUAHSI Let's Talk About Water Challenge Grant, January 2019
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Fellow, March 2018
Montana Water Center Student Fellow, March 2018
Banner carrier for the Washington State University College of Arts and Sciences, May 2017
1st Place Research Presentation, Air & Waste Management Association Oregon Chapter Student Environmental Challenge, April 2017
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Honorable Mention, March 2017
Clark County Public Works Innovation Award for work in Local Source Control, February 2017
Best Undergraduate Research Poster, Washington State University Research Showcase, November 2016
President's Honor Roll in 2013 - 2016
University Scholars Honors Program \$1,000 grant at Washington State University Vancouver, October 2015
NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates Fellowship, June 2015
John Robert Brown Scholarship of \$1,000, November 2015
Student Leadership Recognition Award, November 2015
Vancouver Watershed Alliance \$1,500 grant, October 2012

LEADERSHIP & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Lead organization of Let's Talk About Water Montana film screening and panel discussion, Day of Action, and Science on Tap water talks at Imagine Nation brewing, January 2019 – November 2019
Co-organized two Science, Policy, and Practice panel discussions: a discussion panel on women in government science roles (February 2019) and a discussion panel on women in non-academic science roles (November 2019), collaboration between Graduate Women in Science and Women in Science in Division of Biological Sciences
Founded the Missoula Chapter of the Graduate Women in Science, December 2018
Montana Natural History Center Naturalist in the Classroom volunteer, October 2017 - present
We Are Montana in the Classroom volunteer, October 2017 - present
nPower Girls Watershed Quality Camp Co-leader, Castle Rock, July 2017
Spoke in a video produced for the Clark Community College STEM Department regarding my experiences as a woman in science and mathematics, June 2017
Volunteer tree planter with Friends of Trees, Vancouver, WA, 2017
Volunteered as a Science Fair Judge for the Southwest Washington Science and Engineering Fair.
Invited by Pleasant Mountain Elementary School to participate in a career fair as the resident scientist for elementary and middle school students, November 2016
Invited by nPower Girls program to lecture Kalama High School ninth grade students regarding a career in applied ecology, and what occurs in the typical day of a scientist, November 2016.
Volunteer plankton expert at the Vancouver Lake Ecoblitz, October 2016.
Volunteer facilitator at the March 2016 Watershed Congress, providing feedback and leadership for elementary and middle school students working on watershed monitoring in Clark County, May 2016
Invited to participate in a panel to speak to high school students at the Clark College iTech program about the process of acquiring a college degree, February 2016

Student Representative on Tree Committee at Washington State University, 2014 – 2016

President and Founder of the Environmental Science and Sustainability Club at WSU, helping to organize meetings, events, and logistics to connect students to the campus and improve campus sustainability, 2013 - 2016

Nominated to participate in town hall meetings with Governor Inslee in to discuss proposed legislation that will address climate change in Washington State, April & December 2015

Invited to participate in a meeting with Washington State University Board of Regents to discuss my experience at WSU as a woman in STEM, November 2016

Invited to host the Student Leadership Recognition Award Ceremony to announce student accomplishments and facilitate, November 2015

Volunteered at Sacred Sueños in Vilcabamba, Ecuador in May 2014; learned permaculture design and assisted in goat care and cheese making, cob construction, and farm maintenance.

Founded the Portland, Oregon chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby in 2012, traveled to Washington DC to meet with members of Congress to discuss a carbon fee and dividend.

Member of Environmental Club at Clark College in 2011 – 2012, assisted in the acquisition of a grant to install a compost system in the cafeteria.

Volunteered with NERD Girls at Clark College in 2011, engaging in community STEM outreach for middle and high school aged students.

Volunteered in 2004 for State Senator Brian Baird, engaging the community through door knocking and phone campaigns.

Volunteer with SOLVE Oregon Beach Clean Up in 1999 – 2002.

WORKSHOPS & CERTIFICATIONS

NSF Cross-INFEWS NRT meeting, July 31 – August 1, 2018. “Building a collaborative vision and diverse community to support the emerging FEWS workforce”, Missoula, Montana.

Participated in the National Education for Women (NEW) Leadership Summer Institute in June 2016, gaining experience in public speaking, organizing, and message management, drawing on the expertise of women in various fields, and learning skills in preparation for positions of leadership, July 2016

Certified Watershed Steward in Clark County in 2013, which required an eight-week training and engaging in volunteer events that were beneficial for watershed vitality.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

Society for Freshwater Science, 2019 - present

American Geophysical Union, 2018 - present

Sigma Xi, 2018 - present

Graduate Women in Science, 2017 – present

Associate Women in Science, 2017 - present

American Water Resources Association Montana, 2017 – present

WORK EXPERIENCE

NATURALIST AND DECKHAND, THE SCHOONER ZODIAC, BELLINGHAM, WA

May 2017 – August 2017

Provide educational materials and assistance for species identification and give presentations about marine ecology and stewardship. Teach passengers sail technique, theory, and navigation.

Assist with sailing operations, including ship maintenance, sail handling, navigation, passenger support, and safety.

NATURAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST ASSISTANT, CLARK COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

January, 2016 – February 2017

Work in Clean Water Division to conduct clean water outreach, lead in oil/water separator inventory and GIS mapping project, assist with stormwater monitoring field work, assist with data compilation and analysis for stormwater monitoring, field collections of stream water and macroinvertebrate samples, and conduct maintenance on stormwater sampling equipment.

SALES AGENT, GREEN MOUNTAIN ENERGY, PORTLAND, OR

February, 2013 – January, 2015

Communicated the operation and benefit of Portland General Electric's renewable energy certificate program to a diverse customer base.

GRASSROOTS EDUCATOR, BARK, PORTLAND, OR

September, 2012 – March 2013

Educated citizens about socio-environmental issues in Mt. Hood National Forest.

UNDERGRADUATE PHYSICS 201 TEACHING ASSISTANT, CLARK COLLEGE, VANCOUVER, WA

January 2013 – March 2013

Graded physics assignments under the guidance of Dr. Gothard Grey.

ASSISTANT, INSTAFAB CO, INC., VANCOUVER, WA

August 2007 – May 2011

Assisted with the family business in project management, material quotes, LEED certification, delivery driving, janitorial, tool room management, supply ordering, and building maintenance.

**INTERESTS AND
HOBBIES**

Hiking, rock climbing, surfing, camping, travel, sewing, cooking, sailing, gardening, mushroom harvesting, live music, and science fiction books.