

River Pitcher
D.S 100 Final
11/28/22

Coming to Chaminade my freshman year I entered as a Psychology major, while I enjoyed the subject Environmental Studies was a major that filled my passion for nature and being outside. I have now realized that the ENV program is strong at Chaminade and beaming with opportunity if you are open to finding it. So while I didn't choose Chaminade specifically to pursue Environmental Studies I feel very lucky that I have.

As I have embarked on my college journey these past two years, three strengths I have learned about myself, first, my ability to seek opportunity, secondly, communication, and lastly patience. It is easy to get stuck in routine and not go outside your comfort zone, I felt the same way, then I started to reply to emails that interest me and am pleasantly surprised with the opportunities I have gained from it. This is definitely a strength I will continue to use. Communication has proved to be such a helpful tool especially when it comes to professors. When stress about a class quickly piles on I have found communication is the best way to ease this stress and the resources that I have chosen to communicate with have always been very helpful. Another way I have found to relieve stress is practicing patience, and in other words, trusting the process. When feeling overwhelmed and it seems like a project is never ending I reflect back on all the times I have got big and challenging tasks done and so practicing patience has always been a helpful strength. This being said, after this semester, one thing I would like to improve on is planning ahead, and time management. There were a few times this semester when I knew I wasn't going to be in school, during this time I could have planned ahead by working ahead in the classes I

knew I could, that way I wouldn't have gotten behind in some of my classes. Along these lines, I got a job towards the end of the semester that really tested my time management skills. My plan for this moving forward is to set time aside each day that is dedicated to getting homework done, while still setting aside time to relax so I can still have balance and not feel too overworked.

While this has been a challenge, getting my job has also been one of my biggest accomplishments. My job is a position at Chaminade under sustainability staff. Through this job I have been able to be a part of our very first composting on campus along with cleaning up our greenhouse and starting planting native plants and foods.

While technology does not relate directly to my major I understand that tech is such a big part of today's world and can be such a great tool for helping solve environmental issues. I believe technology drives society because it is the backbone to the way businesses, and organizations run. We are able to collect data and product events and trends. This then is implicated into policies and even behavior of society. We have become very reliant on this way of life, and very reliant on the advanced technology that we have daily access to, I believe with how much people like to travel and move for work or for pleasure a world without technology is not possible with google maps, airline and transportation access through phones, and many more. That being said I do believe that there is a lifestyle in which you stay put in one location and live self-sustainably where you would not require as much, or as modern, technology. Although this lifestyle sounds appealing to me it is definitely not for everyone.

I would hope the next era of technology is one where we use the data era to drive law and policies in environmental protection. As the environmental era is also on the rise I would love to see an environmental technology era.

While at chaminade I hope to continue to work on the sustainability movement on campus by cleaning up the recycling program and organization. And growing our garden and greenhouse.

I would like to make the garden space an organized program where students can effectively get involved and it can be an outlet for students by connecting to the earth. After graduation a career goal I have is to work for a nonprofit organization, specifically in forest restoration.

As I mentioned before, being a part of the sustainability movement is a goal of mine so to be known to a big part of that would be awesome. I see my life going in various different ways, one is to keep going to school to obtain a higher education if I feel the need that I have room to learn a lot more. If I feel satisfied with my education and can see myself looking for a job on an island or back home in the rocky mountains somewhere, the last option that I sometimes think about is joining the peace corps before starting my career. I am sure as I continue my time here at chaminade my decision will become more clear the closer I get to graduation. I also believe that I will have space in my life to experience all these options if I desire to.