

This letter comes to you from a rain-drenched bivvy bag deep in Appalachia. I thank you for taking the time to read and consider my application.

While most visitors to Milford Sound are gone without spending a night, I felt compelled to stay for an entire season, dividing my time between establishing new rock and alpine climbing routes in the Darrans mountain range while writing up my dissertation on Tibetan Buddhist perspectives on enlightenment and the body. During that time, I had the chance to help find samples of a new species of salamander, as well as gather population and distribution data on a threatened alpine buttercups. I can't sit idly by wherever I am in the world, as I'm best fulfilled by enriching myself with my surroundings and sharing my enthusiasm with those around me.

Over my five years in New Zealand, I did just that. I immersed myself thoroughly in local history, ecology, politics, geology, music, law, and language. Whether it is through participation in the first public commemoration of Maori non-violent civil disobedience at Parihaka, learning to dive for shellfish off the northern coast, or researching liability law for the administration of secondary school outdoor program unit standards, I love it all and I love to spread my excitement. Engagement is essential to pedagogy, and I love the Yosemite Institutes foci on experiential learning and non-directive teaching styles.

These strategies I used in my visiting lectorships with Pitzer College and Naropa during their trips to my field site in the Himalayas, strategies I also employed while working as a lecturer in the Wilderness Department at Earlham College. While I have enjoyed the freedom afforded by freelance writing over the last few years, enabling me to travel and climb across North America, I have missed the sense of community and place that my teaching work at Earlham College afforded me. I feel like the Yosemite Institute might offer me that, as well. I am excited by the opportunity to talk with the Institute at greater length about its philosophy, aims, and objectives. I look forward to your reply.

Kind regards,

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