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**ES Senior Capstone Symposium**



On March 7, thirteen Earth Systems seniors presented their capstone projects from EARTHYSYS 210P. The projects spanned topics and mediums, showcasing the diverse interests and skills of the students:

Judith Santano and Madison Pobis showed a trailer for their film that reimagines environmentalism. To inform and encourage policy changes, Victoria Mendez wrote a report about renewable energy options for the city council of her hometown. GetOutsideStanford.com is a compilation of outdoor recreation resources for students created by Peter Montgomery and Maceo Hastings-Porro.

Below is a full list of presenters and their project titles:

- Hannah Shor, (Biosphere),** *Tourism Isn't the Only Cause: Coral Degradation on Oahu*
- Neil Nathan, (Biosphere),** *Waste Training Module for Incoming Freshmen*
- Madison Pobis & Judith Santano, (Oceans, Climate & Atmosphere; Biosphere),** *Bigger Spaces: Centering Narratives on Belonging in Environmentalism*
- Victoria Mendez, (Human Environmental Systems),** *Community Choice Energy for My Hometown? A Chance for Cheaper Renewable Energy*
- Peter Montgomery & Maceo Hastings Porro, (Energy Science & Technology; Biosphere),** *Get Outside! at Stanford*
- Will Hooks, (Biosphere),** *A Revised Look on the Energy Industry*
- China Kanter, (Land Systems),** *Designing a Recycling Program for Kotzebue, Alaska*
- Talia Trepte & Scott Lucio, (Biosphere),** *Hui Kaloko-Honokōhau: Documenting Community and Culture-based Conservation*
- Aviva Klein Meyers, (Human Environmental Systems),** *NGO Collaboration for Environmental Action*
- Mariaesther Diaz, (Biosphere),** Title: *Our Plastic in the Sea*

- Carolyn Rice, BS & MS '19



**Julie Kennedy Public Service Scholars**



Nathan Chael  
M.S. 2019



Andrea Contreras  
B.S. 2019



Kira Smiley  
M.S. 2019

# Internship Spotlight: Syler Peralta-Ramos



Photo Credit: Syler Peralta-Ramos

As I reflect back on the 6 months that were filled by my internship experience between spring quarter and my return to campus in January, I often feel like I am dreaming rather than remembering real life. My journey began on Stanford's BOSP summer seminar to South Africa, where under the leadership of Stanford Professor Susan McConnell and Sebastian Kennerknecht, I was able to get my first real-world taste of the complex challenges associated with conservation and the similarly intricate challenge of communicating those challenges through photography and written narrative.

Following the Stanford seminar, I spent my internship under the guidance of Justin Black and Chris Steppig, as well as a team of many influential nature photographers in the field, learning what it means to pursue a career in nature-based visual and written storytelling. I had the privilege of traveling to the Arctic archipelago of Svalbard, Iceland, and finally finishing in the Sub-Antarctic isle of South Georgia as I put my learning into practice by producing a blog, which served as my final project in the internship. Photography and conservation are my two greatest passions, therefore learning to combine the two fields into one has been an enlightening step in discovering where I want my post-Stanford life to lead. I am incredibly grateful to the Earth Systems program for giving me the chance to explore this unconventional path.

Among the most profound experiences of my journey was encountering a mother polar bear with a healthy cub in tow on the sea ice. There are few things more moving than sharing a moment of time with a magnificent creature like a polar bear, though as the encounter came and went, my eyes filled with tears as I was overwhelmed with emotions of gratitude, sadness, and anger, but also responsibility as I realized that my generation could be the last to live on a planet where polar bears roam on a frozen sea. Though this story is just one example, during my time away, I had countless similarly moving experiences that forced me to contemplate complex challenges, while teaching me more about the world than I ever could have imagined. Upon returning to Stanford, I am re-ignited by a sense of inspiration and responsibility to leave a positive mark on the fragile, yet remarkable, planet we call home.

- Syler Peralta-Ramos  
Earth Systems BS '20

## ES Wellness Corner

My name is Gabriela and I am very excited to be the new Earth Systems Coterm Wellness Liaison! This program is an initiative from the School of EARTH to provide graduate students with student point people around the topic of mental health and wellness!!! As such, I am trained in campus resources and procedures and am here if anyone wants to talk, needs help navigating resources, or wants support in bringing out community together. Additionally, I will be putting on EarthSys specific wellness events as well as co-planning school-wide events for co-terms!

The first event was a joint EarthSys-Sust Coterm Happy Hour where we talked, laughed, wrote gratitude cards, and raffled off Coupa and Yoga Source gift cards! Be on the lookout for the next event, and if there are any requests feel free to reach out to [gnaagle@stanford.edu](mailto:gnaagle@stanford.edu)! Looking forward to seeing you soon!



Gabriela Nagle-Alverio  
Earth Systems MA '19





Photo Credit: Jessica Gonzales

# O'Donohue Family Stanford Educational Farm: Spotlight on The Stanford Farmer's Club

The Stanford Farmer's Club has officially been up and running for over a year now, meeting at the Educational Farm on a regular basis. This last Fall and Spring quarters, the group has been meeting to create opportunities for students to build community, be involved in the growth of the farm, learn new skills and encourage conversations around food systems, social change, agriculture and much more.

Just recently Natalie Ezeugwu, club vice president, hosted a pasta and pesto workshop; nearly 20 student attended! Club president, Vance Farrant, lead participants on an interactive tour allowing everyone to taste produce plucked straight from the plants, truly giving folks a taste of what the farmer's club is excited to share. Natalie lead lessons in making pasta and pesto from scratch gathering fresh ingredients from the farm's fields. Students even tried their hands at making ravioli stuffed with the pesto produced by using mortars and pestles earlier that day.

The Stanford Farmer's Club meets weekly and aims to host workshops every Friday in the Spring quarter. For more information join the group's Mailman list found at the educational farm's website under the engage tab.

- Jessica Gonzales  
Program Coordinator



## Storytelling: Judith Santano

This was our first Earth Systems Spotlight! We were excited to have Judith Santano share stories about her life, passions, and journey as a budding environmentalist and what it means to be a woman of color in environmentalism. Through our spotlights, we hoped to celebrate the diversity within Earth Systems through storytelling!



Photo Credit: Madison Pobis

# The Earth Systems Writers Collective

*The Earth Systems Writers Collective is a community of students who meet weekly under the oak tree across from Y2E2 to write together and listen to and support each other's writing. For more information please contact Emily Polk at [empolk@stanford.edu](mailto:empolk@stanford.edu). The following are Earth Systems reflections written by members of the collective.*

## **Reflections on being a Roble Sustainability Leader**

When I first preassigned into Roble as a dorm sustainability leader, I had no idea that this experience would change my life and the way I thought about sustainability. Through helping with Roble's sustainability efforts for the past two years, I have made new friendships and learned a lot about how to catalyze change. My conception of sustainability has become more intersectional, weaving together environmental and community wellbeing. Sustainable changes in lifestyle don't occur overnight but grow gradually like seeds.

As a Roble Sustainability Leader, I focused on fostering interconnections between the community of people within Roble and the surrounding ecosystem. Last year as a dorm, we planted native wildflowers and grasses in Lake Lag to improve biodiversity and help pollinators. Walking among the soft yellows of the goldfields last Spring, I realized that small actions can really make a difference.

This year, I helped support my fellow sustainability leaders in planning a dorm competition to encourage people to think critically about the environmental consequences of their lifestyles. Each hall competed to see who could win the most points on the Office of Sustainability's My Cardinal Green platform. Over half of Roble's 300 residents participated, collectively earning over 10,000 points for engaging in sustainable behaviors. People who previously weren't interested in sustainability began to express enthusiasm. At least 10% of all the points Stanford has accumulated on My Cardinal Green have come from Roble.

I have been really inspired by various people with whom I've talked in Roble. These conversations have given me faith in my generation's ability to act on climate change and create a future that is more socially and ecologically just. An ethical relationship with the places we live evolves with community action and dialogue.

- Becca Nelson  
Biology BS '20



# Introducing: Seema Yasmin

Science journalism is under siege. So begins the syllabus for the specialized writing and reporting health and science journalism class, EARTHSYS 177C/COMM 177C, which brings together masters students from journalism and Earth Systems programs. We started class in January, the same time that 1,000 journalists across America were ousted from their jobs. The health desks at BuzzFeed News and the Huffington Post were shuttered. Our guest speakers, esteemed reporters from ESPN and Rolling Stone, looked around the classroom and said: "But you're at Stanford. And you want to go into journalism?" I wanted to kick one guest speaker under the table.

But it was a fair question. Why would a bright young person want to be a journalist?

Here's why: to tell the stories of Stanford students too broke to eat. To tell the stories of Stanford students seeking help for mental illness and who are handcuffed as part of the "standard procedure." To ask why one of Stanford's seven schools, one that studies the energy sector, receives money from said sector. To tell us how novels might be our best weapon in the fight against climate change. To remind us there is hope for children with cancer.

Over and over, the writers in the specialized writing and reporting class answered the questions, why journalism and why journalism now? Stories have the power to convey complex issues, they said. Stories have the power to shift belief.

Seema Yasmin is a medical doctor, journalist and poet. A Lecturer in the School of Earth, Energy and Environmental Sciences, she is Director of Research and Education Programs at the Stanford Health Communication Initiative.

- Seema Yasmin, Earth Systems Lecturer



## Mark your Calendars!

### Upcoming DEADLINES

- Apr 1/May 1- UAR Small Grants
- April 12 - Apply to Graduate in Axxess by 5pm (avoid \$50 late fee)
- April 12 - ES SA apps
- April 19 - ES10 TA apps
- Apr 30 - Honors Program Apps
- May 10 - Final Submission for 18-19 Honors Thesis
- May 14 - Spring Qtr. Coterm Apps
- May 31 - Internship Evals & Final Product



Photo Credit: Melissa Vallejo

### Upcoming EVENTS

- TBA - Coterm Orientation
- TBA - Honors Info Session
- May 6 - Volpert Scholars Symposium
- May - Annual Spring Party
- June 6 - Deans Award Luncheon
- June 13 - Graduating Peoples Party 2-4pm (Parents Welcome)
- TBA - Spring Quarter Social Hour
- TBA - Julie Kennedy Public Service Scholar Ceremony (Quarterly)
- Rooted Woods (Quarterly)
- TBA - Prospective Majors Dinner