

Dear Fisheries and Environmental Enthusiasts,

It is time for another GHC Fish Lab update, and while thinking of where to take this newsletter I was overcome by the accomplishments of our team. During Spring quarter, so many of our Fish Labbers are hearing back about their next step. The emails full of good news are absolutely astounding, and I am staggered by the fellowships, scholarships, transfer acceptances, and job offers that are coming in. Because of this, I would like to honor our team by spending this newsletter on Thank You's and Congratulations.

Here is what we have for upcoming events:

May 6<sup>th</sup> – Beginning of the mural. In addition to our routine fish care responsibilities, we will be working with Erik Sandgren and the Art department to begin the planning stages of the mural for the John Smith Aquaculture building. Artistically inclined volunteers are welcome to join us for this collaboration which will likely span several Saturdays.

Last Week of May – Based on last year's records, along with the developmental progress of our coho, it is likely that this will be the week of our last release for the year. We will keep you posted as we get closer.

Reminder – May 27<sup>th</sup> at 1pm the Chehalis River Basin Land Trust will be meeting at the college for part of their Learnings from the Chehalis series. For more information, check it out:

<http://www.chehalislandtrust.org/crbt/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Learnings-From-the-ChehalisFinal.pdf>

# Thank You

Thank you to the WA DFW and Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force for hosting our volunteers during fish planting season. Thanks also goes to the Poggie Club, whose volunteers helped the Fish Labbers get their feet wet, so to speak. If you haven't heard, the lakes are open for the trout derbies! Find out how you can participate here:

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/derby/>





# Thank You



On April 1<sup>st</sup>, we did our own fish move when we held our children's chum release. Our youngest volunteers joined us to say goodbye to the fishies one mason jar at a time. Thanks goes to everybody who participated, and in particular to Mary Ellis and Maria Holden who took pictures while my hands were full.



# Thank You

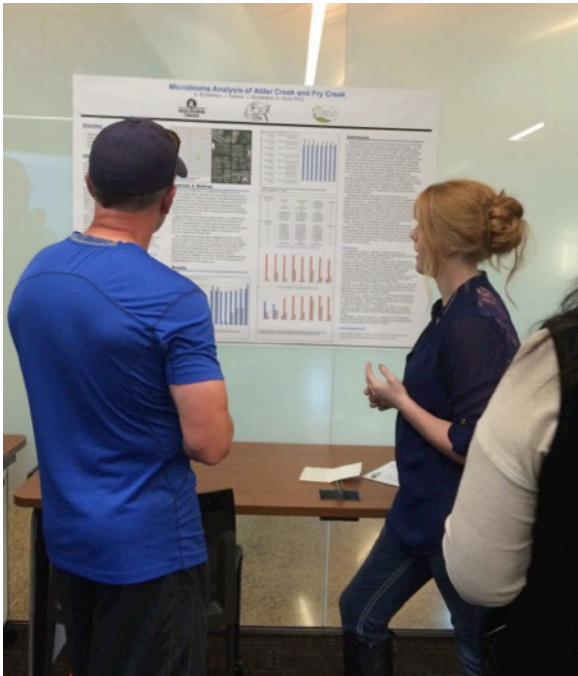


On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Fish Lab hosted Science on the Harbor. This interactive discussion focused on how science intersects with Harbor life, and was followed by a tree planting on the Lake Swano trail. Thank you to our guest speakers, Anthony Odell and Doug Milward for answering everybody's questions. Thanks also goes to the Harborites who joined us: Maddie Thompson, Lauren Thomposon, Taylor Miller, Evelyne Kalema, Aundrea Rodriguez, Alex Islas, Jane Spencer, Mike Spencer, Ted Elson, Joe Kalisch, Mary Ellis, Tammy Domike, Robert Ford, Alan Richrod, Linda Orgel, Juliann Charaska, Ryan Eide, RD Grunbaum, Craig Zora, Theresa Julius, Aileen Gardner, Ryan Hendricks, Domenic Curulla, Isiah Barnett, Casandra Parra, Megan Gonzalez, Brittany Winn, Cindy Ortega, Amanda Rodriguez, Adrienne Roush, Helen Roush, Clara Roush, Maria Holden, Ziya Arrand, Tyler Ellis, Corey Ellis, Kenji Seat, Gage Seta. Extra special thanks goes to Todd Bates for jumping in and helping us with the tree planting, along with GHC Wrestling Coach Andy Cook who made tree planting an active break for his recruiting tour.

# Congratulations

**Echo Hahn** has been named a 2017 Newman Civic Fellow, and for good reason! In addition to volunteering with the Fish Lab, she has served in the Natural Resources Club and the Diversity Center. She is an all around amazing team member, congratulations Echo!

<http://compact.org/newman-civic-fellow/echo-hahn/>



**Samantha Richardson** will be presenting her Fish Lab research project at both the University of Washington's Undergraduate Research Symposium, as well as the American Society for Microbiology national conference. Beyond that, she has been accepted to the highly competitive Medical Laboratory Sciences program at UW. Congratulations Sam!



# Congratulations



**Alex Islas** will also be presenting his project at the UW Undergraduate Research Symposium. Although he was a volunteer last year, he will be joining this year's Summer Research Program working with the Wild Fish Conservancy on their Stream Characterization project. He continues to volunteer on projects with the UW ORHAB phytoplankton study, and is hoping to head out to sea with Anthony Odell this August as well. Excellent work, Alex!

**Malia Marks** also volunteered her time, working on a bioinformatics research project during the school-year last year. Last summer's research program didn't fit with her plans, but this year she will be joining us as the research assistant on our genetics project. Oh yeah, I suppose I should mention that she will be completing this project before she heads off to Harvard University in the Fall. Congratulations Malia!



# Congratulations

**Mary Ellis** and **Dylan Weber** have also been invited to join the Summer Research Program, as research assistants on the 2017 Chehalis River Basin Phytoplankton Study. Mentored by Anthony Odell, this project seeks to learn more about harmful algal blooms at the interface between the the Pacific Ocean and Chehalis River. Their project will consist of equal parts field work and microscopy, as they train in phytoplankton identification and taxonomy. Mary has brought positive energy and scientific curiosity to both the Fish Lab and my microbiology lab where she has been volunteering her time peer-mentoring students on microbial techniques. Dylan has demonstrated his intelligence and tenacity time and again, and has a lot to offer the team. Congrats to team phytoplankton!





# Congratulations



Photo credit: Robin Anderson

**Mary Valentine, Ryan Eide and Colleen Purefoy** have also been invited to join the Summer Research Program. They will be working with Todd Bates on his spruce tree project. Ecology projects take years of data collection and statistics to develop trends. In addition to helping collect this year's data, the trio will be compiling a large batch of information for this long-term project. Mary is a biology major who is just coming off an internship with the Wild Fish Conservancy where she proved her ability to tough it out during some difficult field work. Ryan and Colleen are both students in the Natural Resources department, and are currently in the middle of the very rigorous Forest Ecology series. I am very excited to learn more from team spruce tree... Congratulations Mary, Ryan, and Colleen!



# Congratulations

**Bryn Cavin** will also be joining us this summer as the research assistant on a cross-over project with the humanities. Bryn, a Harbor local and current student at Whitworth, will be working with Lorena Maurer to research how indigenous populations interacted with the Chehalis River both culturally and scientifically.



**Paige Peirog** will be the research assistant for another cross-over, joining forces with Christie Barchenger, Director of Science Education for the Historical Seaport. Together, they will be putting together K12 educational materials that utilize the Lake Swano Model Watershed, and our in-development geocache, to create Chehalis River-based science education opportunities for both classrooms and the public. Paige is a GHC student working toward completing the BAS-TE program, and currently serves at TRiO-STEM.

Congratulations Paige and Bryn!

# Congratulations



**Lauren Thompson** and **Seth Ronk** will be joining me on the Alder Creek Microbiome project this summer. Seth is a current nursing student at GHC, along with providing learning strategies and study tips in TRiO-STEM. Lauren is a pre-nursing student and current Fish Labber, who is not only dedicated to her academic work, but also brings joy to her time as a volunteer. They will be analyzing the second year of data as we characterize the health of Alder Creek by way of 16s sequencing and biochemical analyses of the microbial populations. Each will have a project focusing on the intersection between the health of the Chehalis River and public health. Congratulations to team microbe!



# Congratulations

**Yulisa Morelia** is a pre-nursing student and current Fish Labber with some news. Our GHC Student Body President was named to the All-USA Community College Academic Team, and received a scholarship from the Follett Higher Education Group. As though that wasn't enough, she has been accepted to WSU's nursing program, where she will be working toward her bachelors next year.

Congratulations Yulisa!



**Maria Holden** has also been accepted to her transfer program of choice, which is just the next stop on her way to becoming a Nurse Practitioner. With a focus in rural medicine, Maria seeks to have a practice in the Harbor some day, in addition to serving in the Peace Corp or National Health Service Corps. We can only hope she will still bring her daughter Ziya by to keep planting trees with us. Congratulations Maria!

# Thank You

I just wanted to end this newsletter with a little more gratitude. Thanks goes to the **Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment** for funding the GHC Fish Lab Summer Research Program. This has proven to be a gateway opportunity for our students as they are taking the next steps in their careers. Thank you, also, to the **Grays Harbor Marine Resource Committee** for providing additional funds for our genetics project.

Thanks, again, to all of our Fish Labbers. Whether you spend a day with us, or become a regular volunteer, your stewardship leaves a mark on our program and our ecosystem. I am so proud of all of you and everything you accomplish!

The Fish Lab has a diverse group of volunteers, with participants ranging from toddlers to seniors, students to community members, from art to science and humanities in between, different racial and ethnic backgrounds, and all gender identities and sexual orientations are welcome. With so much variety in the group, I can't help but note our volunteers almost always say the same thing on their first day: "I wish I had come by earlier, but I was too [intimidated, scared, unsure]."

The very same comment has come from those congratulated in this very newsletter. It is on that note that I encourage you to dive in! Whether you are thinking of volunteering or going back to college, our campus community is here to welcome you and help you get started. This newsletter serves as an announcement of just a small portion of the accomplishments by GHC students this year. If you would like to take the next steps toward your own career development, registration for next year begins on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

For more information on how to get started, check out this page:

<https://www.ghc.edu/content/admissions-get-started-ghc>