

Fields of Interest

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1. Emerging Fields of Interest:

- a. Travel Journalism
- b. Science Journalism
- c. Environmental Journalism
- d. Research/ podcasting
- e. Creative Writing
- f. Freelance Writing

I have a range of passions, all revolving around nature, the environment, and the studies and processes that explain them. My goal is to become a science writer and eventually contribute my own works and perhaps teach. These parts of me have been present since I was a young child. It took a while to figure out something that would incorporate all my passions. Experience working in labs, on environmental projects and in the field guided my likes and dislikes into a distinct path.

2. List of courses:

Although many of my year 1 and year 2 classes are relevant to my field of interest, I have chosen to highlight my higher-level courses because they build upon each one of the earlier courses that were interesting to me. For example, Psych 340: Conservation Psychology builds upon cognitive psychology, behaviour psychology, personality psychology and psych 100 and 101 that I have taken. My choice to only include the higher-level courses allows me to narrow the specific direction of my studies. In the case of psychology courses, I will graduate with a minor in psychology, but I intend to use it strengthen my writing rather than going into the field itself.

Year	Course	Instructor	Description
3	English 344: <i>Literature and the Environment</i>	Roger Farr	This course explores literature in the context of recent environmental and ecological thought. Class includes onsite writing and fieldtrips throughout the city of Vancouver. It also includes a multi-media project.
3	Psych 415: <i>Psychology and the Internet</i>	Sally Walters	This course will cover the development of the Internet in a historical context and explore how personal and collective relationships to technology influence Internet use. We will examine the empirical research evaluating the personal and collective social and psychological costs and benefits of Internet use, especially of activities that exist or are experienced in wholly online formats.
3	Geography 360: <i>Geography of a Sustainable World</i>	Jeanne Mikita	The transition to a sustainable operating system for humankind is not only possible, but currently underway. This course assesses the environmental challenges that our world faces and sets out possible courses for action, based on ideas, technology, and systems that are already being put in place around the globe.
3	Psychology 340: <i>Conservation Psychology</i>	Janet Waters	This course surveys the new field of conservation psychology, the scientific study of the relationship between humans and the rest of nature. It focus' on the application of theories and research in psychology to the issues of conservation in the face of climate crises and the urgent need to develop environmental sustainability, to decrease the negative impact of humans and to encourage environmentally friendly behaviour.
3	LBST 390 Tutorial I	Graham Cook	This course explores the origins of travel writing. Insights will include how colonialism, westernization, development of the genre, and present-day influences.
4	LBST 391 Tutorial II	Josema Zamorano	This course is an exploration into visual data gathered from recent trip in order to provide a supplementary qualitative approach of knowledge. It centers around the use of art in an affective way to represent and challenge the human experience. One on one meetings between student and faculty member will direct the formation of this project.
4	Biology 351: <i>Global Biogeography</i>	Marja Westman Paul McMillan	Students will be introduced to the relationship between earth's geological and biological history and the evolutionary processes which combine to determine the global distribution of plants, animals and ecosystems. Major biomes, such as the tundra, boreal forests, tropical rainforests, grasslands and deserts and their characteristic vegetation and faunal groups will be included in the studies.

Table 1: *Courses relating to emerging field*

3. Extra-curricular activities:

Employment at Haida Salmon Restoration corp.

I worked as a research assistant and media representative for the Haida Salmon Restoration Corporation. I loved working on this project because it blended many of my interests of science and writing and innovation. It was my first job in the field and really kick started my goals to become a science writer. I was able to work closely with chemists, biologists, physicists, and entrepreneurs and the knowledge I gained from this project is indispensable.

Freelance writing/ghost writing

Writing has always been entwined with my daily routine and activities. From personal journals to published works with pieces in the Capilano Courier, and the Liar Literary magazine. I have also done ghost writing jobs and the occasional freelance job and I wish to continue to do more. This is just the beginning!

Environmental cleanup

I have always had strong ambitions to help the environment. I have organized beach clean ups at my local Lions bay beaches, and I have participated in clean ups locally in British Columbia and internationally in Mexico, Cuba and Indonesia while I was traveling. Documenting these activities on my blog is something that I frequent.

Traveling

I have traveled all around the world. Being half American I was constantly traveling the states and Canada to visit spread out family members. A love for traveling thus stemmed from my upbringing and continued. Mexico, Cuba, Hawaii, Germany, France, Netherlands, Belgium, Malaysia, and Indonesia to name a few places that have captured my heart. I really developed a curiosity for other cultures and traditions. I am also an avid outdoors woman and adventuring different natural landscapes is a passion of mine. I write about different landscapes that I find, unique stories locals have told me, and my general experiences.

4. Signature Work Analysis:

Original Research: Bears on the North Shore

I and two other students developed a research study on the perception of black bears on the north shore. The research project investigated general bear awareness, bear perception, environmental impact, sustainable actions, and preservation. These are all topics that are a reoccurring theme in my emerging fields of interest. This project was really engaging and interesting from start to finish. I would love to be able to do more projects like this in the future and report on them.

Researching and compiling original data for this project was so fulfilling for me. Being able to use my research in my writing was the icing on top. This project was indicative of other projects I wish to do as a journalist. The information was localized and allowed me to understand the processes of data collection and the good that can come out of it. Our project and my writings that came out of it aimed to generate solutions to the problem of human and bear interactions and make our communities more understanding. In fact, this winter I am going to repeat the study and see if the data from this year compares to last year so that I can add to the project and get a sense of perception over time by predicting and observing changes from last year to this year.

Writing Portfolio

In an application for the Banff creative center writing workshop I compiled a collection of all my best works. This portfolio contained the first four chapters of my novel *Awakened Wilderness*, three short stories and a section of a screen play. These works all revolved around environmental issues and are creative fictional world that looked at what a future with climate change could look like. This portfolio an important aspect of my fields of interests because it highlights my creative side and how I can bring creativity and sustainability together.

Compiling this portfolio for my application allowed me to narrow down how I want to be viewed.

Selection of my work had me critically analyze the image I wished to portray as a writer. In the portfolio I needed to point out in what ways I need to develop my writing and in highlighting these weaknesses I was strengthened by and understanding of what I needed to do next. In its compilation I discovered that I really want to write stories that speak to the environment both in a scientific way through journalism but also in a creative way such as children's and young adults' fiction.

5. Sample Research Projects:

Tutorial III

My next and final tutorial is going to be a creative writing project next semester. Expanding on my portfolio and the outcome of the workshop I want to create another short story with environmental undertones, and I want to experiment in how to deliver messages within literature without being preachy. This will be a combination of my interests in psychology and writing. I want my tutorials to be things that would progress my career in the outside world. Actual projects that I would like to be pursuing and ones that I have been thinking of for a while. I am using these tutorials with as much personal gain as possible so that I can really jump start the career I want to have by graduating with a concrete presence.

Grad Project

My grad project I have already decided is going to be a 6-credit course where I develop my own podcast and I will have episodes that represent different solutions responding to the climate change crisis and an exploration of those topics. As it stands, I want to have around 5 episodes at around 20-30 mins each. I already have a couple scientists in the field that have agreed to be interviewed. One example episode would be: a study of Big Agriculture and what sustainable solutions might look like. A contact of mine is currently working to provide these solutions and on this episode, we will chat about it. This will be the perfect combination of research, writing, and environment. Inspiration for this project came from my own love of the podcast for of information sharing especially shows like Science vs. and RadioLab.