

HEATHER L GILBERT

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EDUCATION

American University

MS Environmental Science, Washington, DC

2015-2017

Thesis:

Title: Amphipod Species Behavioral Adaptation to Drying and Correlated Habitat Preferences

-Conduct laboratory observational study to determine differences in death rate of three amphipod species after the removal of surface water.

Final Year Research Project:

Title: Stratigraphic Record of Microplastic Pollution in the Anacostia River Watershed

-Determine microplastic concentration over time in Anacostia benthic sediment core samples. Presented the results in oral presentation at the ASLO 2017 Conference, Honolulu, HI.

The George Washington University

Bachelor of Arts, International Affairs; Emphasis: Security Policy

2011-2015

SKILLS

Laboratory Techniques: Organic chemical procedures including soxhlet extraction, column chromatography, saponification separation, grain size, density separations.

Instruments: Radon Detector (RAD7), EasyChem Plus, YSI, Rotary evaporator (Rotovap), Gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS).

Software: GIS, SAS, SPSS, STATA, Photoshop.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

American University, Department of Environmental Science, Washington, DC 2016-Present
Graduate Research Assistant

Advisor: Dr. Culver

-Conduct fieldwork for the U.S. National Park Service identifying seeps and determining the distribution of amphipod communities. Take water and soil samples for further site characterization and eDNA analysis.

American University, Department of Environmental Science, Washington, DC 2016-Present
Graduate Research Assistant

Advisor: Dr. Pondell

-Process sediment samples from benthic cores of the Anacostia. Determine microplastic concentrations and the presence of Polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).

American University, Department of Biology, Washington, DC 2016-Present
Graduate Research Assistant

Advisor: Dr. Fong

-Assist in mark-and-recapture study to determine amphipod population size in Pimmit Run Seeps. Identify macroinvertebrates in leaf litter samples in biodiversity study.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

American University	2015-2017
<i>Teaching Assistant, Washington, DC</i>	
<u>Biology of Birds 496</u> (undergraduate and graduate course):	
Dr. Tudge, Spring 2017	
<u>Biology of Insects 496</u> (undergraduate and graduate course):	
Dr. Fong, Fall 2016	
<u>Environmental Science 160</u> (undergraduate course for environmental science majors):	
Dr. Pondell, Fall 2016 and 2015	
<u>Environmental Science 260</u> (undergraduate course for environmental science majors):	
Dr. Pondell, Spring 2016	
Development Alternatives Inc.	2015
<i>Grants Writer Intern, Kenya</i>	
-Helped develop quantitative and qualitative monitoring and evaluation tools during closeout of project including a Focus Group Discussion handbook.	
Partnership for Global Security	2015
<i>Research Assistant Intern, Washington, DC</i>	
-Research transnational security cooperation in sectors including cyber, nuclear and environmental security and identify strategies for greater collective international action.	
United States Senate, Senator Chris Murphy (D)	2014
<i>Press Intern, Washington, DC</i>	
-Communicate Senator Murphy's policy positions to constituents.	
U.S. Department of State, Global Initiative for Combating Nuclear Terrorism	2014
<i>Security Research Assistant Intern, Washington, DC</i>	
-Research radiological source security vulnerabilities and present recommendations for security enhancements and areas for international cooperation.	

HONORS/AWARDS

American University:	
College of Arts and Sciences Mellon Grant	2016
NASA/The Department of Environmental Science Summer Research Award	2016
The George Washington University:	
Community Service Scholarship	2014
Kyung Hee University Fellowship for Korean Language	2012
Presidential Scholarship	2011-2015

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Stratigraphic Record of Microplastic Pollution in Anacostia River Watershed. Oral presentation at Association for Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography, Hawaii Convention Center, Honolulu, HI, March 3, 2017.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS and CERTIFICATIONS

Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography
40 Hour Hazwoper (License 1608251173033)
Wilderness First Aid Certified