



ASPEN COTY

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT '17

What's in a name?

Ask Aspen Coty and you may hear “my career” or “my life’s purpose.”

Aspen’s father was an avid skier, and her parents – who honeymooned in Colorado – loved the outdoors. They named her after the quaking aspen tree, whose golden leaves shimmer in autumn.

“We didn’t have a lot of money growing up, but we always had outdoor adventures,” she says. “I knew in high school that I wanted to work outside and pursue a career giving back to nature. The environment can’t speak for itself.”

However, Aspen didn’t realize how close that career would come to her own roots.

As the new Coordinator for CI’s Santa Rosa Island Research Station, she spends her days thinking about trees and seeds, and helping with projects to restore the island’s native ecosystem. Current areas of focus include helping undergraduate students at the Santa Rosa Research Station and removing invasive plant species. She spent the entire summer preserving the historic olive grove on Santa Cruz Island.

“My name is all too fitting for my degree and career path,” she says, with a smile.

Aspen intends to pursue a master’s degree in her field and, eventually, earn a doctorate.

“My long-term goal is to repair and restore the earth in as many ways as I can and, along the way, travel and learn,” she says. “I love being a part of research and hope I can continue that in my career.”

Aspen credits CI with the career traction she’s gained thus far.

“I landed my position solely because of the contacts I made at CI, and I’ll be forever grateful,” she says. “I’m also beyond excited to be a CI staff member. It’s a dream come true to work for the Research Station and give back all I received as a student.”

NOTE: Aspen says one of her “super powers” is “complete immunity to seasickness.” She adds, “It comes in handy with my job!”

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