

SRIRS ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

DOROTHY HORN ESRM '16

THE PHD CANDIDATE

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW? CAREER/SCHOOL/ETC.

"I am in the last year of my PhD program at Portland State University- so I am officially a PhD Candidate. My line of study/research stemmed from my original research on Santa Rosa Island when I kept finding trash where no one lived. I study the distribution and effects of microplastics in near shore marine environments and invertebrates. Fancy speak for I look for tiny plastics in crab guts haha that smell....I will probably never eat crab or any shellfish again as the smell of boiling warm crab guts is cemented in my nose forever now."

ISLAND MEMORIES

WHAT IS ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE MEMORIES AT THE SRIRS

"The first thing that comes to mind is the very first time I got to go to Santa Rosa Island. It was over the summer for a [field studies course]. I had never been to the islands and pulling up after the 3 hour boat ride to one of the prettiest places I'd seen. The next one is from that same trip, we were on the 4WD vehicle with Dr. Cause Hanna [founding Station Director] and a few students headed to help [a PhD student with her song sparrow] research. It was still dark and we could start to see the sunrise as we were headed to the spot. I will never forget how Dr. Hanna was like a cat in the bushes when it was time to get the bird out of the catch net for banding and testing. I don't think I've ever seen another human move that fast haha. The friends I made on that trip will always be a part of my life as we experienced something very special and cool. Even the memories of stinky feet from not showering as long as possible to preserve water on the island...ha"



A LASTING IMPACT

HOW HAS YOUR EXPERIENCE AND TIME AT THE SRIRS IMPACTED YOU AND YOUR CAREER/LIFE GOALS?

"My first trip to SRIRS was the first time I did any research - although it was short and really just dipping my toes in, so to speak. It got me excited to look for answers to so many questions. I will never forget my time on the island and always look for grants to go back and do more work. Every student and teacher I meet, I suggest that they try to gain those same experiences as it really shaped how I look at so many aspects of ecology within my own work as well as outside my research scope."

RESEARCH

WHAT WERE YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT RESEARCH AND PLACES LIKE SANTA ROSA BEFORE INVOLVEMENT VS. AFTER INVOLVEMENT WITH THE STATION?

"I had never even been out to the islands and had no idea what research really was before I spent time with CSUCI out at the station. I always pictured scientists in a lab and thought that was super lame. Being out on Santa Rosa Island with like minded students and really cool mentors re-shaped how I viewed the world in regards to science and possible research."

IF YOU CONDUCTED OR PARTICIPATED IN ANY RESEARCH/PROJECTS/VOLUNTEERING ON SRI WHAT WAS IT?

"I think we pulled invasive mustard off of a main road, counted invertebrates in the tidepools, collected bugs near the Oak forest. Counted and netted birds with a PhD student, did Sandy Beach infaunal surveys, counted terrestrial plants along watersheds.

For my own research that was published - I collected sand crabs and sand to investigate microplastic prevalence and for my colleague's work, I helped with marine debris surveys - which was also published."



ANY ADVICE?

WHAT ARE SOME TIPS/ADVICE YOU WOULD GIVE TO STUDENTS WHEN VISITING THE SRIRS?

"Be prepared for blisters - take stuff with you for that. Be prepared to be kind of gross and dirty the whole time haha - so pack accordingly. Be prepared to make friends for life as you will always be able to share the experience that very few people get to have. Go in with an open mind and try to really use all of your senses to take in how awesome the experience will be. Everyone's experience will be different....there is no one way or a right way to do it."



WHAT DO YOU THINK CAN BE IMPROVED TO MAKE THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE BETTER WHILE AT THE SRIRS?

"Funding for student research is probably always helpful. I haven't been out there for many years now, so I am not sure what improvements could be made. I'm sure trying to find someone to replace Cause is almost impossible as living most of your life on a remote island is not sustainable. I would defer this question to the more current students and researchers."

ISLAND CONNECTIONS

WHAT PART/PLACE/FEATURE/ANIMAL/PLANT/ETC. DID YOU IDENTIFY WITH OR CONNECT WITH DURING YOUR TIME AT THE SRIRS?

"I don't think I ever identified with any specific thing on the island - I think I always felt like it was too big for me to ever stop learning or seeing something new. So I guess it's more about the experience, from the boat ride over, getting all of your stuff off of the boat, to hiking around to see places. How quiet it can be, how many stars you get to see....the history of the Chumash people on the Island, trying to envision what that was like, seeing shell middens for the first time. So many things - so I think for me it's been the experiences. I have been extremely lucky and have been able to go to Rosa multiple times as a student, something I had no idea even existed and I grew up right here in Ventura county."

SRIRS ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

JAY WOOLSEY ESRM '16

THE SEABIRD HABITAT RESTORATION BIOLOGIST

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW? CAREER/SCHOOL/ETC.

"I am currently working with the California Institute of Environmental Studies in the Channel Islands National Park. I started there working as a seasonal field tech removing invasive species on Santa Cruz Island. Then I began my new position as a Seabird Habitat Restoration Biologist operating the nursery and planting native species in plots on Anacapa Island."



ISLAND MEMORIES

WHAT IS ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE MEMORIES AT THE SRIRS

"I returned to the bunkhouse around 1430 and I saw Dr. Cause Hanna outside the GIS lab, he asked me with concern "What are you doing back so early?" I usually left the bunk house at 600 and returned after dark. I told him with the biggest grin on my face "I'm done, that's it!" Now even more concerned he asked "What do you mean you're done?" I then explained to him "I've finished the project there isn't a tree on Black Mountain I haven't counted." Then Dr. Hanna ran over to me and picked me up with a big hug. He knew the project he gave me was biting off more than I could chew but he believed in me and pushed me. Every day around dinner time at the station he asked me how it was going and if he could help in anyway. But the day I finished field work and seeing his expressions and genuine care for me and the project is a moment I will never forget."



A LASTING IMPACT

HOW HAS YOUR EXPERIENCE AND TIME AT THE SRIRS IMPACTED YOU AND YOUR CAREER/LIFE GOALS?

"It showed me what I wanted to accomplish in my career and life. I learned about pride in my work and what it meant to be part of something bigger. Every student that has gone through this station has contributed to the island's health. It is great to hear all these alumni are now healing not just the islands but making the world a better place."



RESEARCH

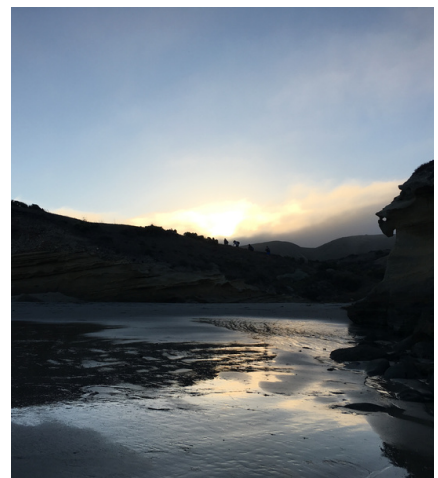
WHAT WERE YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT RESEARCH AND PLACES LIKE SANTA ROSA BEFORE INVOLVEMENT VS. AFTER INVOLVEMENT WITH THE STATION?

"I was not very aware of the station until I began working on a capstone project with three students testing the abilities and feasibility of Remote Operated Vehicles (ROV) in the Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Bechers Bay, Santa Rosa Island. I was not in capstone yet but being out on the island and seeing all of the excellent work being conducted there made me realize I had to come back. After that trip I signed up for a 3 week summer class on the island and then conducted my capstone on the island my senior year. My thoughts in general on this facility are that it is an incredible place to learn and grow both individually and as a team."



IF YOU CONDUCTED OR PARTICIPATED IN ANY RESEARCH/PROJECTS/VOLUNTEERING ON SRI WHAT WAS IT?

"I worked on the ROV project detecting abundance of species in and outside of MPA. I went to the SRIRS Field School summer class. Lastly, I did my capstone which was abundance of Island Oak trees and the regeneration of the Oak groves on Black Mountain."



RESEARCH

HOW WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH YOUR WORK/RESEARCH ON SRIRS?

"Excellent is the only word I can use to sum it up. There is nothing I would have changed in my last few semesters at CSUCI. Even though I was working very hard SRIRS was almost a break from the day to day of college life. I was hiking around 8-14 miles a day in a beautiful oak grove or spending all day at the pier driving remote control vehicles looking for fish or learning flora and fauna across the island."

ANY ADVICE?

WHAT ARE SOME TIPS/ADVICE YOU WOULD GIVE TO STUDENTS WHEN VISITING THE SRIRS?

"If you're inside the bunkhouse you better be asleep! There is no reason to spend a moment inside when the entire island is at your fingertips. Between the sandy beaches, lush tree groves and perfect night sky SRIRS is a dream come true. In a more practical sentiment though, learn from every individual out there even if it is not your discipline. These are the professionals of the future and they are some of the brightest minds in the STEM system, you can learn from anyone at any time."

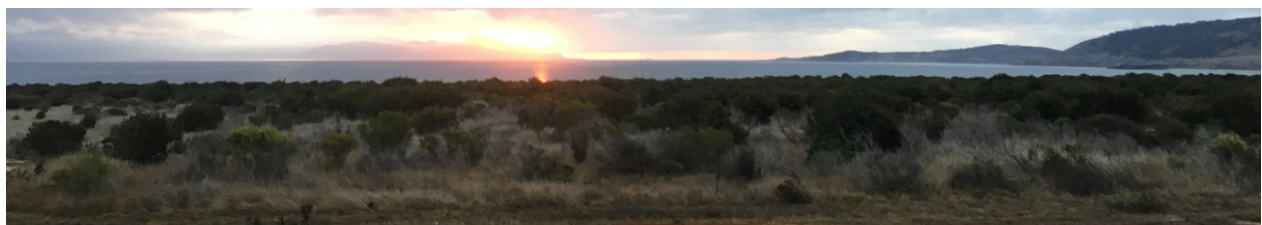
WHAT DO YOU THINK CAN BE IMPROVED TO MAKE THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE BETTER WHILE AT THE SRIRS?

"I honestly cannot think of one thing that could have improved my experience on this island. The guidance I received was a huge help and completely changed the way my research went. It is not that it can be improved but make sure the students are still receiving the attention and help I received."

ISLAND CONNECTIONS

WHAT PART/PLACE/FEATURE/ANIMAL/PLANT/ETC. DID YOU IDENTIFY WITH OR CONNECT WITH DURING YOUR TIME AT THE SRIRS?

"Santa Rosa Island itself. SRI took a very long time to get to where it is today, and like most people it took me a long time to get to where I am today. Life is a fun and complicated adventure just like the islands journey through time."



SRIRS ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

RANDY MORAN BIOLOGY '17

THE ASSOCIATE ENGINEER OF MANUFACTURING

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW? CAREER/SCHOOL/ETC.

"I am an Associate Engineer of Manufacturing at Integrity Bio."

ISLAND MEMORIES

WHAT IS ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE MEMORIES AT THE SRIRS

"My favorite memory at the SRIRS was laying on the pier and looking up at the Milky Way and shooting stars. I grew up in the San Fernando Valley so I had never seen the Milky Way before."

A LASTING IMPACT

HOW HAS YOUR EXPERIENCE AND TIME AT THE SRIRS IMPACTED YOU AND YOUR CAREER/LIFE GOALS?

"A major experience/lesson learned at the SRIRS that impacted my current career is using vinegar to literally clean everything. Which comes in handy when working in an FDA GMP facility.."



RESEARCH

WHAT WERE YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT RESEARCH AND PLACES LIKE SANTA ROSA BEFORE INVOLVEMENT VS. AFTER INVOLVEMENT WITH THE STATION?

"I honestly had never planned to do research or go to a place like the SRIRS before my junior semester at Channel Islands. I am so happy I did though."

IF YOU CONDUCTED OR PARTICIPATED IN ANY RESEARCH/PROJECTS/VOLUNTEERING ON SRI WHAT WAS IT?

"I did Intertidal Research with Dr. Dilly. We monitored two locations at Bechers Bay and Skunk point. Did snowy plover monitoring for the NPS. I have also helped ESRM students with Torrey pine surveys and lagoon surveys."

HOW WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH YOUR WORK/RESEARCH ON SRIRS?

Intertidal research is difficult when low tide is at 7 am and you have to be in the water by 6am and skunk point is a 2-hour hike, so you have to be awake by 4 am. I would do it again in a heartbeat.

ANY ADVICE?

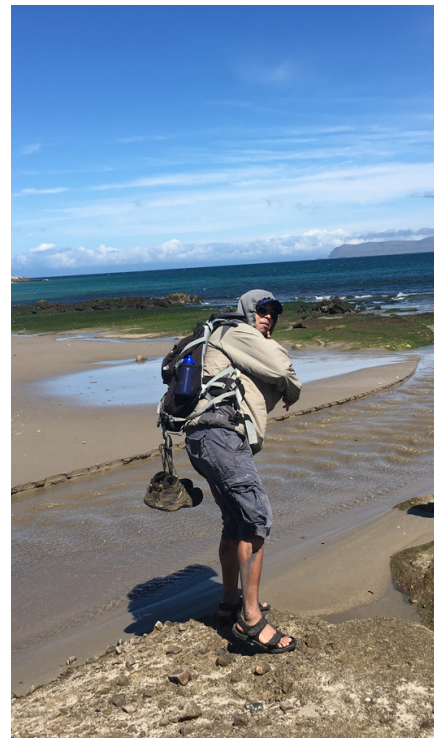
WHAT ARE SOME TIPS/ADVICE YOU WOULD GIVE TO STUDENTS WHEN VISITING THE SRIRS?

Hike Lobo canyon and hike up the mountain to check out the Torrey Pines.

ISLAND CONNECTIONS

WHAT PART/PLACE/FEATURE/ANIMAL/PLANT/ETC. DID YOU IDENTIFY WITH OR CONNECT WITH DURING YOUR TIME AT THE SRIRS?

Probably those old horses limping around the island.



SRIRS ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

DANIEL COOK ESRM '18

THE US FISH & WILDLIFE PARK RANGER

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW? CAREER/SCHOOL/ETC.

I am a Park Ranger for the US Fish and Wildlife Service at the Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex managing our CondorKids program and helping with the California Condor Recovery Program.

ISLAND MEMORIES

WHAT IS ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE MEMORIES AT THE SRIRS

Working with NOAA's (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration) BWET (Bay Watershed & Education Training) program and taking students from Oxnard middle schools to the station for 3-day trips. We did a poetry slam one night that was pretty special for me.



A LASTING IMPACT

HOW HAS YOUR EXPERIENCE AND TIME AT THE SRIRS IMPACTED YOU AND YOUR CAREER/LIFE GOALS?

Teaching and leading students with BWET showed me that what I love is what I'm good at, and I can do it as a career. Further, that experience reflected on my resume allowing me to get in the door for my current position with the USFWS.

RESEARCH

WHAT WERE YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT RESEARCH AND PLACES LIKE SANTA ROSA BEFORE INVOLVEMENT VS. AFTER INVOLVEMENT WITH THE STATION?

That these places were only for super serious PhD studies. No-nonsense, no fun, lots of rules, everything sanitized, only lab science. Now I look at anyone and go, oh, you could be one of those island researchers...or should be. Research, nature, and the station are for everyone to contribute to the scientific community and themselves.

RESEARCH

IF YOU CONDUCTED OR PARTICIPATED IN ANY RESEARCH/PROJECTS/VOLUNTEERING ON SRI WHAT WAS IT?

NOAA Marine Debris. The best ever! NOAA BWET - LiMPETS SRIRS - Photo monitoring, NPS - Intertidal monitoring (Sandy beach) and helped guide trips for all ages, majors, and education levels.

HOW WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH YOUR WORK/RESEARCH ON SRIRS?

INCREDIBLE! Just being on the island was worth it, but then I made lifelong friends and mentors. I learned many valuable skills and it directly connected to everything I do and have with my current role as a Park Ranger.

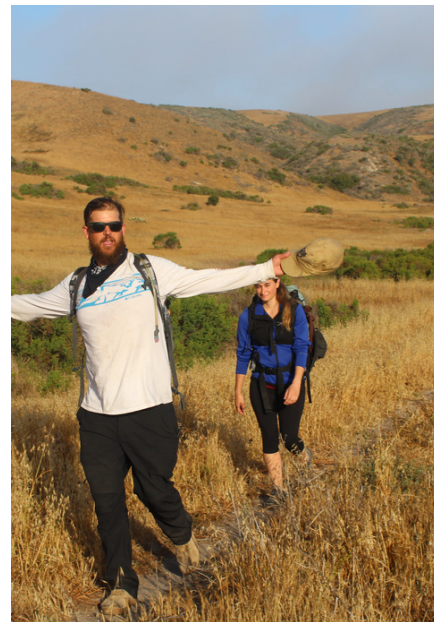
ANY ADVICE?

WHAT ARE SOME TIPS/ADVICE YOU WOULD GIVE TO STUDENTS WHEN VISITING THE SRIRS?

Do it as much as you can, as often, and look for the paying positions out there! and take advantage of the networks; professionals from a variety of career fields visit the station and hope to inspire and support students. Some have internships, volunteer, or job opportunities.

WHAT DO YOU THINK CAN BE IMPROVED TO MAKE THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE BETTER WHILE AT THE SRIRS?

More research exposure. More start to finish projects, or feedback on projects that data is being contributed to during Island trips.



ISLAND CONNECTIONS

WHAT PART/PLACE/FEATURE/ANIMAL/PLANT/ETC. DID YOU IDENTIFY WITH OR CONNECT WITH DURING YOUR TIME AT THE SRIRS?

For me, the moment I stepped on the island, I felt a strong sense of 'spirit' for lack of a better word. There is an energy or vibe or spirit on the island that evokes a sense of responsibility and reverence for every place, feature, animal, and plant. To me this is the Chumash that called W'ima home. Their presence is felt everywhere, and seen some places, and it is a constant reminder of the impacts that humans can cause to one another and a place. That sense and reminder give me hope as this island's land and life is healing.