Connecting Capstones to Life by Professor John Lane

Last week the mail brought a very exciting envelope—inside was a law journal, THE GEORGIA JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE LAW (Volume 43, No. 3 Spring 2015)—containing a publication by one Jill T. Hauserman entitled “Water, Water Everywhere, But Just How Much is Clean? Examining Water Quality Restoration Efforts Under the United States Clean Water Act and the United States-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.”

Jill graduated in our first full class of environmental studies majors in spring of 2011, our first group of eight majors. Back then we were all pioneers, trying to find our way into an academic form we were shaping for our majors. It’s fun to look back and ponder how much hard work went into those first capstones in those first years!

Jill wrote the longest capstone I’ve ever had—so it’s no surprise she’s gone on to write for law journals, after graduating from the University of Georgia Law School and passing the bar. “Warmer, Safer, Drier: Three Summers Working in Appalachia” weighed in at 83 pages and I remember she had a fluid lively prose style that was a joy to edit and read.

We’ve come a long way with capstones. This year’s exciting projects will be presented in the spring at a public event. Students are finishing them up this week!

We’ve discovered that it’s the capstone experience that students often point back to and say that it’s where they learned a great deal. I think it’s fun to see direct lines from a capstone to the work students are doing in the world today. Thank you, Jill for keeping us updated on your writing!
Upcoming Events and Opportunities

**December 3rd**

*5th Annual Glendale Christmas Tree Lighting:
* Kick off this holiday season by joining us for refreshments, music, and a visit from Santa at Glendale Outdoor Leadership School in Glendale!

**December 15th**

*Application Deadline - Department of Energy (DOE) Scholars Program:
* The 10-week summer program offers opportunities that introduce students or post-graduates to the agency’s mission and operations. Participants gain a competitive edge as they apply their education, talent and skills in a variety of scientific research settings within the DOE complex. Visit [http://orise.orau.gov/doescholars/description/index.html](http://orise.orau.gov/doescholars/description/index.html)

**March 1st**

*Application Deadline - Biosphere 2 Summer Program:
* The University of Arizona will hold a 10-week research experience for undergraduates (June 5-August 11, 2017) in environmental and Earth system sciences. Stipend, lodging, food allowance, and travel to/from Tucson, AZ provided for participants. For more information and how to apply visit: [http://biosphere2.org/education/research-experiences-for-undergraduates](http://biosphere2.org/education/research-experiences-for-undergraduates). You can also ask Carol Morel about her experience there last summer.

**Ongoing**

*Middlebury School of the Environment Summer Session 2017:
* Six-week summer environmental studies program in Vermont (June 23-August 4) with undergraduate credits for 3-full courses. Applications accepted on a rolling basis until the program is full. Need based financial aid is available. Visit [http://www.middlebury.edu/environment/about](http://www.middlebury.edu/environment/about) for more information.

---

**PROFILE OF THE WEEK:**

*Dominican University of California – GreenMBA*

Established in 2002 at the New College of California, and then acquired by Dominican University of California in 2007, the GreenMBA program is the nation’s first Master’s of Business Administration in Sustainable Enterprise. Students have the option of completing the program in one or two years with full or part-time structure.

“Today the program seeks to integrate business and environmentalism and to educate a new generation of leaders who are able to bridge the gaps among environmentally sound, socially responsible and financially successful business practices.” Concentrations also let you specialize in global business or strategic leadership. The program focuses on leadership, team-building, and communications skills.

Dominican has received a bronze level ranking in sustainability, according to the *Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS)* of the *Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)*. [http://www.dominican.edu/academics/barowskyschoolofbusiness/mba/learn-more-about-the-greenmba](http://www.dominican.edu/academics/barowskyschoolofbusiness/mba/learn-more-about-the-greenmba)