

January 2019



Dear Bradley,

The ripples from a stone cast into a pool is an overworked metaphor, I know. But I am at a loss to come up with any other way to describe the remarkable effect of our 13-year relationship with the Maasai people of Kenya.



Dr. Mary Poole began taking Prescott College students to Kenya 13 years ago at the urging of her old friend Meitamei Oleg Depash, a Maasai community leader. Mary and Meitamei conceived the program to apply the principles of experiential learning to sociology, social justice, and global studies. Her students studied colonialism and its effect on indigenous cultures like the Maasai while undertaking service projects in close consultation with the Maasai community. At first everyone lived in tents and cooked on camp stoves, but over time a real field station emerged with classroom space and a kitchen.

[Read more.](#)

Class Notes

Rob Hastings '01

Rob writes, "After 20 years as an itinerant field biologist, all over the Southwest U.S. and Sonora, Mexico, I got a master's degree in GIS at the University of Arizona in 2017, at the age of 56. I accepted a position with the City of Flagstaff as the GIS Specialist with the Water Department in June of 2018. I will always miss living and working in the great outdoors, and now will have to

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recreate out there instead of doing it professionally." Congratulations, Rob!

Janet Ross '74

Janet built the Canyon Country Discovery Center, a place-based outdoor education center about the Colorado Plateau, which opened in 2016 in Monticello, Utah! Read more at <https://ccdsccovery.org/>.

In Memoriam

Erik Kapek '12

Submitted by Cal Seabaugh '12



It is with a heavy heart that we inform everyone that Prescott College alumnus Erik Kapek passed away on November 27, 2018. After graduating in the spring of 2012, he stayed in Prescott while finding his calling doing exquisite custom cabinet work. In his final days, Erik was truly living life. He had a great job that he loved, and he was cherished by co-workers and friends alike. When he wasn't working, he was rollerblading through the skate parks of Arizona, tearing up the trails on his mountain bike, or searching for the next spire to rock climb. He regularly explored the outdoors with people he loved so dearly. We are so proud of all of his achievements. He was on a beautiful path, and we had never seen him happier in his life.

Noteworthy Student News

Sarah Vincent is the director of outdoor education at Chapel Rock's Aspen Creek Outdoor School, a

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Natural History Institute Presentation

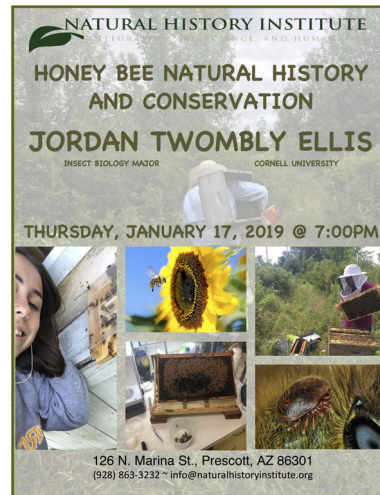
residential science camp in Prescott, Ariz. Sarah has a B.S. in Earth Science from George Mason University and is currently a M.Ed. student at Prescott College. Read more about Sarah's work in the G.E.M.

Environmental Blog at

<https://www.gemenvironmental.org/blog/science-stories-contributing-to-society>.

2018 Winter Graduation

Congratulations graduates! Please click [here](#) for the 2018 winter graduation ceremony video.



Jordan Twombly Ellis opened our 2018 Speaker Series last January with her presentation titled "Ladybugs and Big Data: Tracking *Harmonia axyridis* in Space and Time."

We're excited to welcome her back again this January to open our 2019 Speaker Series. This time, the focus of Jordan's talk will be "Honey Bee Natural History and Conservation."

We have all heard about the plight of the honey bee, but few know the fascinating story behind colony decline disorder. This is a story of how the natural history of a creature collides with the pressures of conventional agriculture. Jordan Twombly Ellis presents two facets of this story from her research on the Greek Island of Lesbos and at Cornell University in the context of the sociality of *Apis mellifera*, the honey bee.

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