



Sarah (Winnie) Winikoff

SCEP Intern

Sarah grew up in the Twin Cities of Minnesota. As an Undergraduate she worked on Prince of Wales Island (POWI) in Southeast Alaska for a summer and fell in love with Alaska's people, wildlife, and culture. On POWI one stream in particular, Nossuk, made her decide to pursue an advanced degree in aquatic biology.

As a Ph.D. student at Notre Dame she is currently working at Izembek NWR, characterizing Izembek's salmon-bearing streams in order to ensure that a sustainable management plan continues well into the future. Winnie will be uncovering which factors limit the base of the aquatic food chain, primary production in streams, and how these change from upstream to downstream.

In her free time Winnie likes to run, take photographs, and go fishing, though she has never fished on the ocean! She looks forward to hiking across the tundra and taking pictures of the plants and animals that call Izembek home, as well as finally landing a bigger fish than her dad! She is grateful to be coming back to Alaska and have the opportunity to work at Izembek.



Jennifer Gregory

ANSEP summer intern

Jennifer grew up in Anchorage, and is currently pursuing her bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences at UAA. She is also a part of the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP). With the help of ANSEP she has been able to obtain internships with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. When Jen isn't in school or working she likes to travel and go camping. One interesting fact about Jen is that she wants to possibly get her pilot's license in the future.

This summer Jen will be working with Winnie on characterizing streams as well as an eelgrass study at Grant Point. They will be collecting eelgrass samples, estimating the density and growth rate of eelgrass in a particular area in the Izembek Lagoon.

1 Izembek Road
Cold Bay, AK 99571
Izembek.fws.gov

Izembek@fws.gov
P: (907) 532-2445
Toll Free: (877) 837-6332
F: (907) 532-2549

Didem Ikis

Penn State Graduate Student

Didem received both her bachelor's and master's degrees from the Middle East Technical University, located in Ankara, Turkey. After she was awarded with the Fulbright Scholarship, she applied to Pennsylvania State University for her Ph.D. degree. It has now been three years that she has been a part of Dr. Eric Post's Lab, and she is currently continuing her research in Cold Bay, Alaska.

Her research interests are the influence of environmental variation on life histories at the population and community level and how these findings can be applied to conservation. She has been closely working with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to develop an inventory and monitoring program for the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, and applying this program together with observational field work to investigate anticipated responses of focal taxa to climate change, especially avian communities. Her field studies concentrate on the effects of climate change on the phenology of Alaskan wetlands and avian communities. These studies are largely focused on the changes in hydrology which may affect hydro period, timing and duration of invertebrate prey availability and may potentially cause a mismatch between prey availabilities and arrival of migratory birds for breeding. She is currently in her second year of conducting field work to understand how these interactions occur in ponds, which are abundant in the Alaskan wetland system and good model systems to use her findings to explain these kinds of dynamics in other wetland types.

In her personal time, Didem loves to hike and birdwatch (as a change, just for fun!). Her Turkish heritage gives her the ability to cook delicious Mediterranean dishes. She was a singer in a rock band in her college years and she has been trying to keep that side of her alive.



Christopher Starr

Biological Technician

Chris is a student at Pennsylvania State University and is studying Wildlife Biology and Business. Along with being a student, Chris is an active member of the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity at Penn State that is the oldest chapter in the nation, and will celebrate its 100th anniversary this upcoming fall. He is originally from Westchester, New York, but is now a resident of Longmont, Colorado. He is volunteering for graduate student Didem Ikis of Penn State on her aquatic ecology research project on the freshwater ponds of the Izembek Refuge as an independent study for school.

Chris is an avid athlete who loves playing lacrosse, football, and wrestling. He loves exercising in the gym and running outdoors. Chris also loves to fish, which helped draw him to Cold Bay for the summer. The high brown bear population also intrigued him to come and work at the refuge. In addition, Chris is a social individual who loves building new relationships and broadening his horizons. He hopes to travel the globe and experience as many new places as he can, so is proud to check Alaska off of his list.



Danica Pavlic

University of Alaska Fairbanks, Natural Resources Management

Danica has had education in a wide variety of subjects both natural resource and biology related. She is especially interested in mycology and was accepted to the U.S. Army Core of Engineers Apprenticeship Program where she studied fungi in Southeast Alaska. She enjoys working with birds and has had volunteer experience with Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge and the Alaska Bird Observatory and has interned as a biological technician for a shorebird study in Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her husband, backpacking, hiking, mushrooming, and other forms of outdoor recreation.

After graduation Danica would like to obtain a career position with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Park Service where she will be able to spend time outdoors and pursue a career which includes fieldwork and educational outreach services. She would like to be accepted as SCEP student so that she can have a head-start in moving toward her career goals.

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Jeff Randall

Graduate Student, Alaska Pacific University

Jeff is finishing his Master's degree in Environmental Science at Alaska Pacific University in Anchorage. His research involves the use of stable isotopes of oxygen, carbon and nitrogen as indicators of environmental change. Jeff is also working with the Biometrics team out of the USFWS Regional office in Anchorage. He will be spending time at Izembek evaluating the potential effect of the wind turbines on birds. This project involves the use of field techniques and a special branch of statistics called Occupancy Modeling. Jeff will also be assisting Winnie and Jen with their projects.

Jeff received his Bachelor of Science in Biology and Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations & Advertising from the University of Nebraska-Omaha.



Jeff has worked as a Park Ranger for the USFWS as well as at the Omaha zoo with lemurs and other animals from Madagascar.

In his free time Jeff likes to travel, snowboard and experience different parts of Alaska. He also likes to read the research of other scientist as well as classic novels.

Presentations at the Community Center will be given in August.



If you have any questions please call the Refuge Office.