

Streams of Consciousness

LARC Grant Rationale and plan of work for the research community: (word count: 536)

Stephanie Lenox and Liz Perkin

The emerging field of the ecological effects of artificial light is a topic rich in symbolism and emotional response. Our project will investigate the science of storytelling while discovering the story behind science by engaging in creative writing exercises that respond to this potentially ground-breaking ecological research. Professors Stephanie Lenox (English) and Liz Perkin (biology) will be joined by students Tyler Griswold (English), JoAnna Hernandez (biology), Anya Romig (biochemistry), and Alexandra Wert (chemistry) in a tightly-coordinated group to produce narratives based on scientific work in the field and in the lab. The cohort's creative efforts will be guided by techniques and principles being refined for a textbook on short-form writing. This textbook will be the first of its kind in its close examination of multi-genre creative writing techniques and what happens to narrative under the pressure of extreme brevity. Placing language under a metaphorical microscope, students will experiment with short-form methods of storytelling to document the ideas, themes, and observations that emerge from their field work.

Artificial light at night has major implications for conservation and can be representative of the way humans interact with nature. In this sense, studying artificial light from a scientific perspective will harken back to some of the great American conservation writers, including Aldo Leopold, Barry Lopez, and Henry David Thoreau. We will read works by these authors and others, while asking, "how do these authors turn their observations of the natural world into a creative document? Can we discern an underlying method used by each author to shape their narrations?" Similarly, we will also be reading scientific literature from different time periods to examine how narration has changed over time within the scientific community. Like the conservation writers we admire, we will take much of our inspiration from our time in the field—

Liz Perkin

Tyler Griswold

Primary Mentor: Liz Perkin

LARC Streams of Consciousness (word count: 500)

As cities become more industrialized, artificial lights have become quite common, increasing feelings of safety and modernity for humans at the expense of the organisms residing within streams near lights. Aquatic insects are one group of affected organisms. Aquatic insects tend to drift through the water more in the dark, when their movements are not as easily detected by predators. When artificial light is introduced these insects may stop drift behavior. The

JoAnna Hernandez
Primary Mentor: Stephanie Lenox
LARC Streams of Consciousness (word count: 500)

I am very interested in the “Streams of Consciousness” LARC program led by Professors Perkin and Lenox

Alex Wert

Primary Mentor: Stephanie Lenox

LARC Streams of Consciousness (word count: 469)

As a major in Chemistry, I've spent considerable time in the lab cultivating a passion for research. Most of the courses in my major require lab work, which has allowed me to develop research skills such as careful annotation of experimental records, precise measurements, accurate use of scientific ins(1) 0.2 50 0 0 Tm2 (e) 0.24 234.136 732.56 cm BT 50 0 (e) 0.2 (a) 0.2 (s) -0.2

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Budget items:

Transportation 100/day, 3 days HJ Andrews, gas	\$700
HJ Andrews	