

# ESS Newsletter

## October, 2024



### Warm Welcomes to Dr. Tamara Misner!

Dr. Tamara Misner, formerly of the geology department, has now joined ESS as a hybrid lab manager and instructor. Enjoyers of geology can look forward to geo classes returning in the future (maybe as soon as next semester, but most likely by next fall). Dr. Misner says she's looking forward to supporting student and faculty research projects and helping get lab space set up for new ESS faculty. Something fun she did this summer was travel to Iceland (a fantastic travel destination for any geology enthusiast) where she got to see awesome glacial and coastal landforms, as well as an active volcanic eruption with fountains of lava!



### MSID Spring of 2024 Dakar, Senegal

Last semester (Spring 2024), I had the opportunity to study international development in Dakar, Senegal. In particular, the program emphasized the difficulties of pushing Indigenous development in a society that was and continues to be ravaged by imperialism, colonialism, neoliberalism, and globalization. While there, I chose to examine these topics through the frameworks of both sustainability and entrepreneurship. Through these courses, I learned about and experienced some of the realities and lived experiences of individuals in Senegal.

In addition to the classroom phase, I also had the opportunity to complete a six-week internship at the Hôpital Traditionelle de Keur Massar in a suburb of Dakar. At the hospital, individuals are diagnosed and treated through the use of plants. Additionally, the individuals in charge put particular emphasis on protecting the medicinal plants in their hospital and the cultural knowledge surrounding each of them.

That being said, I could not possibly capture the entirety of a semester abroad in a single article, and invite you to contact me at [vowler01@allegheny.edu](mailto:vowler01@allegheny.edu) if you have any questions or want to know more.



Willow hard at work cutting up Kinkeliba leaves to make a tisane!



### #SporkTheQuad! A Fun Way to Practice Sustainability

Recently, the Office of Sustainability brought back #SporkTheQuad, an event previously held in 2018 meant to reduce student reliance on single-use plastic utensils on campus. This consisted of hundreds of sporks being “planted” in the Gator Quad, where students were able to take one for themselves and participate in spork-themed carnival games! The event was advertised with countless comedic posters around campus made by summer employees at the Office of Sustainability that included various pop culture references as well as a handful of photoshopped images of Ron Cole himself, all with the hashtag #SporkTheQuad. This event was a part of an ongoing sustainability initiative on campus to steer away from single-use items in dining halls, with future plans including the implementation of reusable dishware in McKinley’s.



President Ron Cole claiming a spork for himself!



### Geology Club Rock Walk to Cemetery Run

On a beautiful Saturday noontime, 9/28, the new members of Geology Club walked together from Alden Hall to the north trailhead of Cemetery Run. The weather was so nice and the small creek was just stunning! I reminisced about the geology field trips we had at Cemetery Run, talking about how the massive boulders got in the stream, how those straight lines in the stream bed formed, and what kinds of fossils you can find in the siltstone! Though I am a geology major, trying to teach the other Geology Club members certain aspects of the stream and the rocks in it, it was unfortunate I couldn’t explain literally everything to them. But hey! They had fun, learned a few things, and now their love for geosciences has grown! If you would be interested in taking another “Rock Walk”, join Geology Club! Follow us on Instagram @rocksofallegheny :).



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