Looking back, LOOKING FORWARD

PAGE 4

P.4 STEWARDSHIP AND SCHOLARSHIPS

P.5 TELL US YOUR STORY (YOU DID!)

P.7 CORPS MEMBERS REMEMBER

CONSERVATION BEGINS HERE® THESCA.ORG
I’m writing this from an airport terminal, waiting for my flight to Chicago to visit with local alumni. It’s a perfect time to reflect on my first year at SCA.

I now have met and/or spoken with hundreds—no, thousands of SCA alums and current members. And whether they are 15 or 75 they all have a similar story to tell: how SCA changed their lives and gave them direction. During our recent Tell Us Your Story (#TUYS) campaign, we asked alumni to tell us what they built, yet many replied that “SCA built me.” You’ll find some of these accounts on Page 5, and many more on our website, www.thesca.org.

As I sit with alumni, at our New York City crew’s end-of-season recognition event or a Seattle Happy Hour, I stress one main message: #AlumFromDayOne. This means that from the moment they agree to serve, they are privy to all that SCA’s nationwide alumni network has to offer. This includes access to our multigenerational assembly of over 85K alums, career mentoring, continuing education, special and exclusive events like the one I am headed to in Chicago, those at NAAEE and SH/FT (see Page 3), and more.

Like you, I am an SCA alum, though not in the way you might think. I never served on a high school crew or staffed a visitor services desk as a junior in college, as I was not familiar with SCA back in the day. In the summer of 2017, however, after years of working in the academic world, I discovered SCA and its mission of empowering conservation leaders. No sooner had I joined the organization when they announced a staff crew was being sent to help complete a revegetation project in Yosemite. I immediately raised my hand.

One night, after a long and tiring workday, we all sat around a post-supper campfire. I quietly studied each of my colleagues and thought to myself, I have finally found my people.

Perhaps you enjoyed a similar SCA experience in your past. Well, this inviting combination of camaraderie, support, and service is also in your future. In order to know our alumni and how we can best meet their needs, it is important to get out and meet them where they are: in the field, in the office, at professional conferences, and in social and service settings. You never know where these meetings will lead.

A few months ago, I traveled to the outskirts of Acadia National Park to chat with Darron Collins, SCA 1987 and president of the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor. Once there, I learned the COA dean of admissions is also an SCA alum. As we explored potential partnerships, the synergies built quickly, and if you are heading to college any time soon—or have a child or grandchild who is—you owe it to yourself to see what we came up with on Page 4 of this special issue of The Green Way.

Moving forward, we hope to publish alumni editions on an annual basis, but of course SCA supporters receive The Green Way in their mailboxes and you can always find alumni profiles, resources, and event listings on our website (btw, we will be launching a new and more robust website in 2019!) as well as our social platforms.

In the meantime, I invite you to reach out with updates or suggestions by email (pmalizia@thesca.org) or perhaps we’ll have the chance to meet in person. It’s only a matter of time before I visit your area.

They are boarding my plane, so I need to wrap this up. At SCA, we like to say “Conservation Begins Here.” But conservation continues everywhere our alumni work, volunteer, and recreate. Your ongoing stewardship is what makes the SCA alumni community so unique and united.

Thank you.

Patricia Malizia
Director of Alumni Engagement

We need your help keeping in touch!

If your address or email has changed since your service, you can update it online by entering the ID number, including the CON, which appears below your city and state on the back page of this issue of The Green Way or use the enclosed return envelope. If you are a parent of a SCA alum and want to be sure your child receives info from us about career resources and other opportunities, please update their information or make sure they do.

All alumni who participate will be entered for a chance to win an SCA swag bag!

Visit thesca.org/AlumUpdate today.
**HOUSTON ALUMNA HAS EYES ON DC**

In recent years, Jacquie Arroyo of Houston, TX has served as president of her high school’s National Honor Society, captain of the varsity soccer team, and president of a women’s empowerment club; she’s also served on four SCA conservation crews. Her life’s goal is to win election to the U.S. Senate but she’ll have to endure at least one detour along the way: this fall, Jacquie enrolled in Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania after earning a full ride scholarship from the Posse Foundation.

“I never would have thought that someone like me: Hispanic, of lower income, and a female, would ever have such an opportunity,” she says. “It is all honestly a dream come true.”

Jacquie plans to pursue immigration law after college to be “the voice for the voiceless and the light for those living in the shadows.” Then, she’ll enter politics to address “the lack of representation the Latino community has had for decades.”

However, Jacquie has no intention of getting ahead of herself, despite her stellar record to date. “All these accomplishments are not where it ends,” she says. “They are just the beginning.”

**SEE YOU THERE!**

In recent weeks, SCA continued its strategy of meeting alumni where they are by sponsoring, speaking, and hosting events at the North American Association of Environmental Educators (NAAEE) conference in Spokane, WA, and the SH/FT Festival in Jackson Hole, WY. We provide alums with a special ribbon to add to their nametags as a way of sparking conversations and relationships.

As 70% of SCA alumni remain active in the conservation field, forums like these are a great place to gather with past volunteers. At NAAEE, we hosted scores of alums in an evening of networking and socializing, while honoring the four SCA alums who were named to the NAAEE 30 Under 30 panel of up-and-coming leaders.

This year’s SH/FT Festival featured “the innovators, early adopters and thought leaders at the forefront of the ‘Nature Rx’ movement.” While there, SCA took attending alumni for an exclusive wildlife expedition in Grand Teton National Park, one of our founding parks in 1957.

We are interested in knowing what conferences you will attend in 2019. Email pmalizia@thesca.org to help us target our alumni activities where they will bear the most fruit and you could win some SCA swag—and maybe get your own SCA ribbon!

**1969 ALUMNUS STILL GIVING BACK**

When John Finck applied to SCA back in 1969, the individual who assessed his application is one who still looms large over the organization. In fact, she looms over the entire youth conservation field.

It was SCA Founder Liz Putnam who approved John’s service on Mount Rainier a half-century ago, and this summer they reconnected over coffee in New Hampshire and at a service project at Vassar College.

“It was so great to see Liz is still going strong, still inspiring the next generation of young stewards of the environment,” he says.

A teacher at Cardinal Hayes High School in the Bronx, John says he and his family are avid supporters of SCA’s New York City programs. “Society’s in peril if we don’t include urban kids in making them part of our future,” he says. “These are our future stewards, voters, and citizens, and SCA is exposing them the issues this generation must contend with: climate change, resource allocation, alternative energy.

“SCA has grown and changed with the times, and it has a bright future.”
A high school student from the New Jersey suburbs, Darron was awed by his epic surroundings, invigorated with the laborious nature of his work, and inspired by his volunteer coworkers and crew leaders, all from different parts of the country and with a host of different backgrounds.

Darron’s SCA crew in the summer of 1987 was tasked with keeping cattle out of riparian areas of Salmon-Challis National Forest, first by installing a two-mile long barbed wire barrier and then by constructing a winding, jack pole fence.

“It was the hardest work I had ever done in my life,” Darron says. “I loved it—for the physical experience, and also being able to see the fruits of our labor. I felt like I was contributing to the wider world for the first time.”

It was Darron’s trip leaders, Harold and Gail Lindebo, who helped him fuse the cinematic setting with the idea of working for the greater good and form a lifelong philosophy of conservation. He soon attended the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, ME and, after graduating in 1992, he went on to earn a Ph.D. in anthropology and later work with the World Wildlife Fund managing international conservation projects. After a decade of protecting Amur tigers and Siberian taimen, he returned to COA in 2011 as the college’s first alumnus president.

“In many ways, our project-oriented educational focus is analogous to building that cattle fence,” Darron observes. “It’s amazing what can happen when you push yourself intellectually, physically, and socially.”

COA recently announced a new scholarship for SCA alumni—up to $10,000 a year for four years. “Students who are attracted to SCA, who are interested in working as a part of a team, taking risks, foregoing the creature comforts of home and being uncomfortable, very uncomfortable, and who are motivated by the greater good, will thrive here at COA,” Darron states.

More details and an online application can be found on COA’s website. “I want to reward SCA alumni for their contributions,” Darron says, “and inspire them to keep doing that adventurous kind of work throughout their undergraduate careers.”
Tell Us Your Story!

Earlier this year, SCA teamed with alumnus Daniel Dryburgh and his digital marketing company, Glassview, to gather stories from SCA alumni. The response was overwhelming and here’s just a sampling of what you shared with us:

**CHARLIE MIKSIÇEK, St. Louis, MO, SCA 1969**

I was at Mount Rainier between July 9 and 28, 1969. On July 20, 1969 we sat around the campfire, listening to the moon landing and Neil Armstrong’s moon walk on a transistor radio, while staring up at a full moon. During the last several hundred feet of descent, we compared the distance to the height of a 212’ tree we had been taught to measure the previous day. Even though this was happening 240,000 miles away, we still felt very connected.

**LAURIE MEYERS, Minneapolis, MN, SCA 1992**

I volunteered to build a section of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. I learned about Joan Armatrading from our spirit-filled leader Suzy, The Education of Little Tree from our wise and calm leader Joseph, and how perseverance and physical discomfort helps connect people. I also learned about our humanity, other amazing people, and myself. As John Muir said, “By going out, I was really going in.”

**AURELIA CASEY, Staten Island, NY, SCA 2012-16**

When I first joined SCA, I was not a person who liked to get dirty. However, after doing environmental projects at different National Park sites in New York City, I knew I had found my passion: educating diverse communities about environmental science, and getting them involved in our wonderful parks. SCA changed my life.

**FABIOLA TORRES TOLEDO, Hatillo, PR SCA 2014**

I worked within the SCA and AmeriCorps on a Road and Trail Inventory team of five in Wyoming. We collected data on roads, trails, and dispersed campsites. Being from Puerto Rico with a different culture, I got to explore totally unknown ground that changed my perspective about the world. I am forever grateful to SCA because this internship gave me so much more than expected.

**JUHYUN KIM, Seattle, WA, SCA 2012, ’13, ’16**

I joined SCA’s Desert Restoration Corps, then the Hurricane Sandy recovery team, and then led several SCA crews. The diversity of experiences helped me obtain my Master’s in conservation biology, and today I work as a restoration ecologist. Some of my best moments and memories stem from my SCA days. I wouldn’t trade them for the world.

**DOUGLAS DVORAK, Cleveland, OH, SCA 1973**

In 1973, I traveled by greyhound bus from Cleveland to North Cascades NP in Washington. That journey is a story in itself, especially for a teenager whose only prior camping experience was limited to a sheet thrown over a clothesline in the back yard of our home. We worked extremely hard to build a bridge over a mountain stream. It was an experience I will never forget.

**NEIL SCHNEIDER, Miami, FL, SCA 1993**

In 1992, I had a girlfriend whose friends made her a book of tributes, photos and memories. I was so jealous, thinking, “No one will ever make a book like that for me.” In 1993, I was an SCA volunteer at Mount Rainier National Park. I gave walks, trained as a forest firefighter, learned how to cook for myself and survive on a tiny budget. It was invaluable. At summer’s end, the rangers I served with surprised me with a gift—a book they had each contributed to, full of photos and stories. As soon as I saw it, I thought, “This is my book.”

SEE MORE ALUMNI STORIES AND SUBMIT YOUR OWN AT thesca.org/TellUsYourStory
Alumni by the Numbers

SCA Alums live in ALL 50 STATES AND DC

Top Cities:

- SEATTLE, 1,268
- MILWAUKEE, 550
- CHICAGO, 615
- PITTSBURGH, 1,762
- PHILLY, 511
- NYC, 934
- DC, 903
- CHICAGO, 615
- MILWAUKEE, 550
- SEATTLE, 1,268
- SAN FRANCISCO, 492
- HOUSTON, 533

In the last 18 months, over 1,100 alumni donors have contributed over $700,000 to help SCA conserve lands and transform lives. Over 60 of those individuals are monthly sustaining donors.

314 LEGACY FAMILIES
(more than one family member served with SCA)

10,150 MULTI-SERVICE ALUMNI
(served on more than one crew, corps, internship)

Most alumni had the privilege of a no-cost SCA experience because of someone else's generosity. Now we need our alumni to pay that forward. Here are some reasons your fellow alumni donate:

#1: ENSURE THE NEXT GENERATION CAN SERVE, TOO
“The extensive time spent working in the wilderness has shaped my entire life. I hope SCA is still around for my own children to be a part of.” - Yvonne C., ’94

#2: BE THE CHANGE WE WANT TO SEE IN THE WORLD
“We built a community of trail workers and friends up Lightning Creek. This led to later work in the Idaho Wilderness, which continues today. The gift keeps giving. Keep passing it on.” - Tom V., ’78

#3: HELP OTHERS FIND A PLACE TO BELONG
“My family immigrated here during middle school... I simply did not know about the joy of national parks... the days we spent among the Redwoods have been one of my most treasured life experiences.” - Mihika N., ’08

Through the end of the year, your gift will have double the impact. So if you commit to $10 a month, that gift will become $240. Please give today while a small group of donors is matching all gifts.

Give today at thesca.org/alumTGW
MILESTONE IS ONE OF THOSE LITERAL TERMS, dating back to the granite obelisks employed by early Roman road crews. Today, two SCA trail crews are enjoying milestones of their own.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of SCA’s Adirondack Corps, a five-month residential program offered in association with AmeriCorps. Each year, approximately 20 corps members from all over the U.S. partner with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to construct hiking trails, build elaborate timber bridges, restore historic buildings, and remove invasive vegetation throughout the six-million acre Adirondack Park.

Although the Adirondack Corps is based in Long Lake, members typically break into groups of six and work five or 10-day hitches in the backcountry. The resulting camaraderie not only makes for productive conservation work, it spawns skills, friendships, and memories that last a lifetime.

Staci Fisher traveled from her home state of Oregon to join the Adirondacks Corps in 2006. “I wanted something different than what college was giving me,” she says. “So I Googled, found the SCA, and had possibly the best summer of my life.”

Staci’s team helped repair Santanoni, one of the area’s famed Great Camps, rid the park of countless exotic plants, and built trails and foot bridges, “but I would argue that SCA helped to ‘build’ me,” she states.

“I grew in confidence and really credit this time as moving from a college ‘kid’ to an adult. Afterwards, I worked in natural resources for a while and now I’m a school counselor. I direct every one of my students who is interested in a Gap Year to check out SCA!”

A DECADE IN SALMON-CHALLIS

To the West, SCA’s Idaho AmeriCorps Program is similar in structure and purpose, though with a more intentional workforce development focus. Now in its 10th year, the program is headquartered in Salmon-Challis National Forest and its 28 members work with federal, state, and tribal partners to address conservation needs throughout the central Idaho area.

Alaina Dottino, a 2017 alum from upstate New York, says she “had the privilege of being a part of some cool projects over the course of five months. I got to build water bars, drainage dips, jack leg fencing, rock walls, check steps, and even a bridge we got to use for rigging.”

She admits the effort took a physical toll but adds “the program sure made me grow as a person and made me realize that anything I put my mind to I can get accomplished.”

Over the past decade, some 200 SCA Idaho Corps members have contributed over 180,000 hours of service and earned U.S. Forest Service Region 4 Awards in 2013 and 2017 for its commitment to engaging young adults in vital conservation and restoration projects.
BY DANIEL DRYBURGH

I’ll never forget speeding through the streets of Downtown Los Angeles, tracking and studying the behavior of Los Angeles’ urban coyote population during my NPS Academy internship with the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. It was a transformative experience to observe wildlife encounters in such an urban environment and inspired my work with SCA surrounding urban development and the resulting habitat reduction.

Serving with SCA has instilled within me a conservation ethic and deep connection to the natural world. Every opportunity that I’ve pursued with SCA, ranging from my service on a National Crew in Alaska to my present role on the Alumni Council, has heightened my connection with the environment, catalyzed my desire to pave the way for the next generation of conservation stewards, and empowered me as a leader.

By introducing leadership opportunities at an early age, SCA facilitates the formation of confidence, adaptability, and decisiveness. Being confident enough to make a decision and adaptable enough to pivot in a dynamic environment are invaluable skills curated through hands-on leadership experience. I’ve been an eyewitness to the benefits of hands-on environmental service and as an alumnus feel a responsibility to pay it forward for future generations.

As Chair of the Council’s Communications committee, I work to develop opportunities for large numbers of alumni to engage at anytime and anywhere across the globe. Recently our committee’s attention has been dedicated towards growing SCA’s digital engagement strategy via the introduction of a social media ambassador program, digital content production and a website-wide revamp. By enacting a multi-pronged engagement and communication approach, we hope to connect with our diverse alumni base in meaningful and impactful ways.

Furthermore, this role offers the chance to facilitate enjoyable volunteer experiences and share my SCA story with like-minded environmentalists. By connecting young people through our digital engagement strategy and hands-on environmental service, our goal is to empower the next generation of conservation leaders.

I’m excited to leverage my role on the SCA Alumni Council to strengthen our reputation as the nation’s preeminent youth conservation organization as well as to pave the way for future generations of environmental stewards. I invite you to get more involved with our new alumni initiatives. Email us at alumni@thesca.org and I hope to see you at an event or out in the field sometime soon!