11/21/2017

Dear Maggie,

Happy spring! It is hard (for me at least) to believe it is already April of 2017, but the flowering cherries on the quad and daffodils in my yard are an indication that it is time for myself and my students to plan our summer field season. We have gotten a lot accomplished and a lot planned for the summer of 2017, so I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous gift and share with you the people and projects you are helping support through the Walker Endowed Professorship I feel privileged to hold.

Summer of 2017 will be the fifth year of MeadoWatch (www.meadowatch.org), a citizen science program at Mt. Rainier National Park. Since 2013, we have been engaging volunteers to help us document the seasonal timing of flowering and seed production in high mountain meadows. Every day during the summer, one or two of our 100+ volunteers carefully record the presence (and absence) of four stages of wildflower reproduction at 25 locations within the park. The data our volunteers provide us is invaluable scientifically (and voluminous: >10,000 observations last summer alone!), allowing us to tease apart how climate controls the timing of wildflower blooms at Mt. Rainier National Park. Equally rewarding is the connection that MeadoWatch provides our volunteers to the beauty of the changing of the seasons in the high mountains, while giving them a glimpse into the scientific process. The National Science Foundation Grant that supported MeadoWatch in its early years has ended, but fortunately, the Walker Endowment allows me to keep the program going this summer. Your gift allows me to hire an undergraduate assistant to help with MeadoWatch trail maintenance and volunteer coordination (interviews ongoing), as well as to support my graduate student Meera Sethi part-time to engage our volunteers via social media this wildflower season. Both these efforts are critical for the success of MeadoWatch, so thank you! If you would like to learn more about the program, I have enclosed the informational pamphlets from 2016, which we provide our volunteers to take into the field with them.

We will also be working hard before the wildflowers come out at high elevations in late July, because tree seeds start to germinate early June in dense forests at lower elevations. Here, we are monitoring the performance and abundance of these tiniest of trees (most half the size of a nickel standing on its end) in 18 locations scattered around Mt. Rainier National Park. Because we also carefully measure air temperature, snow cover and soil moisture wherever we count and tag seeds and seedlings, we can determine how seed production by trees and seedling growth and survival may be altered by climate change. Trees are literally rooted to the ground, so these dynamics are especially important in understanding how and where trees can establish new populations as our climate warms. We have made some important discoveries (for

Janneke Hille Ris Lambers
Walker Endowed Professor of Natural History
Adjunct Curator of Plants, Burke Museum of Natural History
Box 351800, Biology Department, University of Washington, Seattle
206.543.7389 ~~ jhrl@uw.edu ~~ faculty.washington.edu/jhrl/Index.html ~~ www.meadowatch.org

example, warmer and drier summers will benefit some tree species but disadvantage others), but more await. This is because nature provides us with a different kind of environment every year, allowing us to explore the impacts of varying climates on seeds and seedlings. This winter, we realized that some of our soil moisture loggers required repair – so the Walker Endowment is allowing me to keep this valuable long-term data set going by providing some much needed funds to fix them. Long-term data is especially important to climate change research, but also often difficult to fund with relatively short-term and increasingly unpredictable federal grants – so the contribution of the Walker Endowment is especially meaningful.

A final heart felt thank you for your support this year! Your generous gift is supporting the efforts of my research group to understand the link between climate change and Washingtons' forests and wildflower meadows, by supporting the collection of valuable scientific data. Arguably an even more important (but harder to measure) contribution are the volunteers and students whose lives have been touched by the Walker Endowment. If you ever want a day away from the busy city to see our research sites, and perhaps help survey wildflowers on our MeadoWatch trails, I would love to show you around – just let me know.

Warmly – Janneke HilleRisLambers

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
Seattle, Washington 98195

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

October 26, 2016

Mrs. Lauren P. Cacciamani
6445 McCormick Lane
Harrisburg, PA 17111-4786

Dear Mrs. Cacciamani,

Last autumn I had the honor of being selected as the recipient of the S. Wilson and Grace M. Pollock Professorship in Creative Writing, previously held in our department by Professor Heather McHugh. I am writing to tell you how grateful I am for your support. Since this is my first letter to you, I'd also like to take a moment to introduce myself.

I am a poet on the Creative Writing faculty and I teach poetry workshops at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. I have published nine books of poetry, all focused on lives other than my own. I find science to be a special source of inspiration and my last several books have included poems centered on the lives and achievements of such figures as Newton, Mendel, Darwin and Curie. My longtime publisher is Penguin/Putnam and my individual poems appear most frequently in *The Atlantic*. Over the years, my work has received recognition from a number of institutions and, in 1998, I was delighted to be named a Fellow by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

My particular type of poetry requires considerable research, much of it in archives located abroad. With the aid of the Pollock Professorship, I was able this past summer to travel to research sites in the United Kingdom in order to gather material for my next book. For the past three years, I have been focused on Alan Turing, his scientific achievements, his personal tragedy, and how mathematical patterns and the patterns found in the natural world are represented in poetry. My Pollock Professorship allowed me to spend time at Bletchley Park, where Turing worked to decipher codes during WWII, and at Lyme Regis, not far from Turing's preparatory school. These visits were invaluable to me and work stemming from them has recently appeared in *The Atlantic.*

As I write this letter, I am reliving my experiences at Bletchley Park and Lyme Regis, and I'm filled with gratitude for the Pollock Professorship, which made that research possible. I intend to travel back to the United Kingdom again next

summer, to study Alan Turing's papers both at Cambridge and at Sherborne School, which he attended before entering Cambridge. Again, such a journey would not be possible without the help of the Pollock Professorship. Thank you so very much.

Sincerely,

Linda Bierds

Linda Bierds
S. Wilson and Grace M. Pollock Professor of Poetry
University of Washington