The 2013 Greater Research Opportunities (GRO) Fellows are having productive and fun summers as they complete internships at EPA facilities around the nation. A few of the Fellows volunteered to tell the GRO Forum a little bit about themselves for this issue.

**Adeline Dutton** attends Lake Superior State University, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., where she majors in fisheries and wildlife management with a minor in marine and freshwater sciences. Fisheries are important both ecologically and economically, she notes; she likes studying the interface between the two. Addie enjoys the outdoors, spending her free time fly fishing, kayaking and mountain biking. “The environment must be protected in order for the next generation to enjoy the exquisite beauty that I enjoy today,” Addie says.

**Erin Smith** chose to major in environmental and marine science at Virginia Wesleyan College, Norfolk, Va., so that she could study human impact on the environment and its ultimate effect on wildlife. “I hope to use this knowledge to find ways to mitigate these impacts and to protect and preserve marine habitats along the Atlantic coast,” says Erin, who has a particular interest in research and conservation of marine mammals, especially whales. Erin is an amateur wildlife photographer and volunteers with wildlife rescue and rehabilitation organizations.

Where are they now?
GROing and Learning
In Mexico City, access to clean water isn’t consistent, says Jairo Luque Villanueva. “When I was growing up, we had a water reserve tank,” he says. Through his family’s experience, Jairo developed an interest in water scarcity. He currently studies wastewater treatment technology at Humboldt State University, Arcata, Calif., as an environmental engineering major. Jairo is active in organizations promoting science in Native Americans and Chicanos, and is also a member of his school’s Aztec dance troupe.

Jason Jung credits experiences as diverse as becoming an Eagle Scout, taking an engineering technology class in high school, and interning at a solar company as influences on his choice to study environmental engineering at the University of the Pacific, Stockton, Calif. “We need to care about the environment more because we are using up our natural resources, which is also causing a lot of pollution,” he says. Jason’s love of the outdoors is reflected in his hobbies of hiking, cycling, skiing, camping and playing sports.

Jessica Zielinski has childhood memories of spending time in nature with her parents, including a memorable hike involving a beehive and two dogs. She also helped her mother pick up litter in their neighborhood. “As I grew older and more informed, I saw that the environment that I had so enjoyed growing up – and still do today – was in need of more than litter patrol,” says Jess, who’s studying sustainability at the University of New Haven, New Haven, Conn. “I feel it’s imperative that we learn to live in balance with the natural rhythms of our planet, as opposed to throwing these systems off kilter,” she notes.

To Jewel Lipps, studying environmental science is like being a modern-day explorer. “I want to understand the scientific processes behind the natural world and extend that knowledge to developing ways for humans to live with less environmental impact,” she says. Jewel attends Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. Her environmental consciousness extends to her hobbies – she enjoys upcycling old materials into new things like quilts and stuffed animals.
Brittany Beebe  
Effects of Macroalgal Blooms on Ecosystem Service Production in Pacific Northwest Estuaries  
Newport, Ore.

Lori Bothwell  
Environmental Issues in the Pacific Islands  
Honolulu, Hawaii

Lauren Carlson  
Green Chemistry  
Washington, D.C.

Katherine Corcoran  
Greenhouse Gas Public Outreach and Notification  
Dallas, Texas

Emily Crossette  
Green Infrastructure Modeling Study  
Athens, Ga.

Adeline Dutton  
Lake Blue-green Algae and Algal Toxins Study  
Golden, Colo.

Paul Fleischmann  
Evaluation of Mercury Source Reduction Measures on Mercury Loads in the Great Lakes  
Chicago, Ill.

Marissa Giroux  
Genomic Indicators of Chemical and Other Stressors  
Narragansett, R.I.

John Gurak  
Marsh Crabs: Friend or Foe of Coastal Wetlands?  
Narragansett, R.I.

John Haugland  
Evaluating the Environmental Efficacy of Biochar  
Corvallis, Ore.

Amanda Holmes  
Brownfields Strategic Program Development: Communication & Resource Leveraging  
San Francisco, Calif.

Jason Jung  
Sustainable Water Infrastructure  
San Francisco, Calif.

Rachel Korinek  
Solution-oriented Cumulative Risk and Near-source Air Quality Assessments  

Elizabeth Lipps  
Biogeochemistry of Peatland Ecosystems  
Duluth, Minn.

Jared Lobbestael  
Understanding Clean Water Act Jurisdiction in South Fairbanks, Alaska  
Seattle, Wa.

William Lutterman  
Monitoring and Assessment of Surface Water Quality in the South Platte Urban Watersheds  
Denver, Colo.

Nelson Malone  
Environmental Justice Community Impact Assessment & Outreach Project  
Atlanta, Ga.

Alexander Moix  
Synthesis and Testing of Materials for Drinking Water Treatment  
Cincinnati, Ohio

Manelai Nhiliyio  
The Impact of Water Treatment on Algal Toxin Reduction During Harmful Algal Blooms  
Cincinnati, Ohio

Daniel Pasquale  
Understanding the Impact of Oyster Reef Restoration & Aquaculture on Denitrification Rates & the Benthic Community  
Narragansett, R.I.

Garret Price  
National Rivers and Streams Assessment of Reference Waters in Region 7  
Kansas City, Kan.

Alma Ramirez-Velez  
Marine Debris Source Reduction Projects  
San Francisco, Calif.

Serina Robinson  
Integrated Toxicological Approaches for Assessing the Ecological Risks of Pharmaceuticals  
Duluth, Minn.

Trey Saddler  
Storm Water, Salmon and Tribal Trust: the Pacific Northwest at Its Best and Worst  
Seattle, Wash.

Tia Scarpelli  
Understanding How Weather Affects Infrared Imaging of Oil and Natural Gas Emissions  
Denver, Colo.

Clint Slocum  
Improving Use of Biological Indicators for Environmental Management  
Narragansett, R.I.

Erin Smith  
Life Aquatic Wheeling, W.V.

Mark Vater  
Functions and Values of Alaskan Wetlands  
Seattle, Wash.

Peter Ventres-Pake  
Evaluating Wetland Denitrification Rates and the Relationship to Soils in the Pacific Northwest  
Corvallis, Ore.

Jairo Luque Villanueva  
EPA Relevant Work in 26 Southern California Congressional Districts  
San Diego, Calif.

Dyrian Wandick  
Microbiological Treatment of Drinking Water for Pesticide, Nitrate and Ammonia Removal  
Cincinnati, Ohio

Jessica Zielinski  
Advancing the Adoption of Sustainable Water Infrastructure and Green Infrastructure as Tools for Climate Change Adaptation  
Chicago, Ill.

Tabea Zimmermann  
Identifying and Preventing Nutrient Impairments in Pacific Northwest Estuaries  
Newport, Ore.

“...I’m encouraged to learn about the environment and mankind’s interactions with it, as there is no mankind without the environment,” says Lauren Carlson, a chemistry major at Loyola Marymount University (LMU), Los Angeles, Calif. She’s also committed to serving her community through education and outreach about agricultural practices and by advocating for food justice. While Lauren considers her education and environmental advocacy to be a cornerstone of her life, she also pursues an interest in international affairs through study abroad and service trips and dances in LMU’s dance crew.

Nelson Malone, a chemistry major at Howard University, Washington, D.C., is interested in the relationship of the environment and human health. “I realize the immense impact of the environment on health and the detrimental consequences of our habits,” he says. Nelson hopes to contribute to increasing awareness and improving environmental conditions by studying medicine and public health. Nelson is an active volunteer, helping his fraternity plan and raise funds for a dance marathon to benefit a children’s charity and participating in a service trip to Ghana.
“Humans have made massive impacts on the natural world,” notes Roby Ventres-Pake, who attends Western Washington University, Bellingham, Wash. “Through studying environmental science, I’m gaining tangible tools to solve the problems we’ve created around us,” he says. Roby, a passionate cyclist, recently put more than 1,200 miles on his bike, pedaling from San Salvador, El Salvador, to Panama City, Panama, during a study abroad trip devoted to botany.

“Learning how humans may best interact with and adapt to our changing environment is crucial for our quality of life and longevity on this planet,” says Tabea Zimmermann, an environmental science major at Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa. She hopes to use her education to educate people on human impacts on the earth and to develop just and sustainable ways for humans to best live in the environment. Tabea spends time outdoors “running up hills and through mud puddles” as a member of her college’s cross-country team.