

**Summer Internship Report 2017**

**Bethany Hamson, C'18**

Hometown: Silver Spring, MD



**Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority  
Seguin, Texas**

*(Bethany is on the left)*

**Provide an overview of the organization/research project and a summary of your responsibilities, tasks, and/or projects.**

This summer I was mentored by Todd Votteler, Ph.D., Executive Manager of Resource Policy & Stewardship, as well as a Sewanee alum, and Carrie Kasnicka, Executive Director of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust.

During my time at GBRA, I sampled water throughout the Basin with the lab technicians, visited and learned about the San Antonio Bay Foundation, toured the Twin Oaks facility, the Canyon Lake Gorge and the springs at the Meadows Center, attended expert meetings regarding water policy and law as well as those regarding species assessment for Texas mussels and Zebra mussels. I also spent a considerable amount of time working with landowners who have conservation easements on their property through the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust and performing annual site inspections.

**During your internship, what did you accomplish or how did you make a difference? In what ways did you grow in your professional and technical skills?**

Throughout this internship I learned many new skills, from water sampling to meeting with professionals in the field. I met with professionals in the field in both large meetings and small group settings. I also spent time arranging inspections and inspecting their property on which they had a conservation easement through the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust.

**Describe a problem that you helped to solve at your internship. What skills or knowledge from your education at Sewanee helped you address the problem?**

As a Sewanee student, I interact with people of many different backgrounds on a daily basis. This skill was very helpful to me while working in Texas, as I had never spent an extended amount of time there before.

**In what way were your teamwork skills strengthened?**

My communication skills were definitely strengthened this summer through working at GBRA. I worked with Carrie Kasnicka and Sewanee alum Todd Vottel on different aspects of my internship. Communicating effectively with both of them was very important in making sure I finished work that needed to be done as well as attending meetings throughout Texas on an efficient schedule.

**How did your internship affect your career plans?**

Prior to this internship I did not have much experience in the water aspect of the natural resources field. Seeing how politics and science interact this summer was very exciting and I am interested in furthering my experience and knowledge in this aspect of natural resources.

**In what ways did your internship cause you to encounter people of different backgrounds from your own? What steps did you take to communicate effectively with such persons? What did you learn from such persons' perspectives?**

This summer, I lived in San Antonio, worked at the GBRA office in Seguin, attended meetings in Austin, and met with landowners throughout the basin. After living in Maryland my whole life and attending school in Tennessee, it was interesting to meet so many people from a significantly different part of the country.

**Words of thanks to your internship funding donors:**

Thanks so much for providing this wonderful opportunity that allowed me to learn and grow this summer!