Application Related Information

Application:	Application Verified	Iteration Name:	202510_GR_G
Grad Program Applying To:	MES	Program Name:	MES

Recommendation Information

Recommended By:	Dylan Fischer	Recommenders Title:	Professor
Recommenders Institution:	TESC	Contact Name:	Shannon Van Duine
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs:	I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.	Recommendation Waiver Choice:	
Recommendation Form Submitted:	✓	Recommendation Status:	Received
Received Date:	03/11/2024 12:25 PM	Recommender Assessment:	I recommend this applicant.
Recommendation Type:	General	Recommender Form:	Letter of Recommendation
Recommendation Entity ID:	1024000117862154	Recommendation Owner:	Josephine Bernier

Recommender Form Questions

How long have you known applicant:		Applicant ability as self-directed learner:	
Time since last contact with applicant:		Applicant as productive member of group:	
Relationship with Applicant:		Applicant most significant strengths:	
Ability to complete rigourous grad program:		Responsibility/reliability:	
Communication Skills - Oral:		Communication skills - written:	
Service Orientation-sensitivity/empathy:		Ability to work independently:	
Ability to handle stress:		Ability to think critically:	
Ability to analyze/problem solve:		Ability to think creatively:	
Openness to feedback:		Potential for leadership:	
Ability to work in a team:		Personal/professional reflection:	

Description Information

Description:		Form URL:	https://evergreenstatecollege.radiu

Other Information

Created Time:	02/24/2024 06:56 PM	Created By:	Josephine Bernier
Modified Time:	03/11/2024 12:25 PM	Modified By:	Josephine Bernier

03/11/2024

From: Dylan Fischer, PhD

I am pleased to have the opportunity to recommend Shannon Van Duine to you as an applicant for the MES program. Shannon was a student in several of my field-science-intensive programs in 2019-2020 at The Evergreen State College. These academic offerings were full-time (16-credit) intensive programs focused on student research in forests, deserts, and field settings. Shannon demonstrated a continual interest in environmental studies and engagement with the scientific process. Moreover, Shannon was responsible for multiple independent and group research projects that represented perfect examples of successful graduate research. Three of these projects stand out as evidence of potential for successful graduate-level work.

First, Shannon a study examining moss species abundance and trends along short environmental gradients along a short non-fish-bearing stream. Shannon used an impressive number of sample plots to document trends in moss cover and number of species with distance from the Puget Sound. Her data provided a nice baseline for future studies. Shannon worked diligently on this independent project, and the results reflected significant learning about the scientific process. Second, Shannon participated in a group research project examining moss diversity and community composition on several different commonly occurring trees in lowland temperate rainforests of western Washington. Her group surveyed a number of trees along transects in a ~100-year-old second-growth forest. They found moss representing 13 different bryophyte families. The group had interesting findings, completed rigorous field data collection protocols, and produced a nice manuscript and presentation from the effort. It was clear the group used this opportunity to learn about sample design, field studies, and scientific communication. Finally, Shannon participated in another group research project comparing burned and unburned forest patches at the site of an accidental 2018 wildfire. This study was able to make use of past data in 40 plots split between burned and unburned locations. In each plot, the group identified all plant species, and examined how burn history affected the current variation in plant community. This project has significant potential and I hope the group does more with it to share the results. The study design was clear and robust, and they demonstrated clear differences in plant community between the sites. Throughout, Shannon demonstrated excellent comprehension of advanced topics in parametric, non-parametric, and community analysis approaches in statistics using the program R.

Shannon demonstrated ability to do excellent graduate-level research. I highly recommend this applicant for MES and I look forward to seeing what Shannon can do with the opportunity.

Please contact me further with any questions,

Dylan Fischer

http://sites.evergreen.edu/fischer

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