

## Bilezikian Essays

**Name: Paige Anderson**

It is impossible to provide feasible adaptations to the climate crisis without first addressing how these problems disproportionately affect different members of society. My work with environmental advocacy first began as a small child, spending time in the garden with my grandmother. I spent the first eight years of my life living with my grandparents. We struggled economically after my grandmother broke her back and my grandfather lost his job. When living a healthy lifestyle wasn't possible on our small budget, our back yard turned into an oasis of organic vegetables that helped feed us through the winter, as well as helped a few other families in need. I realized then how access to quality food is considered a privilege of the wealthy- or at least, excludes the poor. Through education and community work, my understanding of this concept has developed further. For two years, I participated in the Bellingham Food Bank Garden Project as a gardener in which I attended courses in sustainable urban agriculture, received financial assistance with seeds and plant starts, and cared for three raised beds in my yard. What my household couldn't immediately eat or preserve was donated back to the food bank. It is important to continue involvement food justice and sustainable food systems in my community. Evergreen's experimental farm is an excellent place to hone these skills. I would take full advantage of the resources available while earning an MES degree. While food justice is an important part of my personal life and history, I plan on focusing on landscape ecology in my career. Since September 2013, I have been involved with Bellingham Parks and Recreation's Volunteer Program, a city governmental organization that works on a variety of projects. For one year, I worked as an Environmental Education Intern. Every Saturday I led small groups of volunteers during work parties restoring native vegetation in the many green spaces of Bellingham, WA, working with diverse urban demographics. It was a powerful experience for me to focus on what I am passionate about (working outside) while teaching others the importance of balancing biodiversity with recreation opportunity. My internship was given purpose by the volunteers' smiling faces and eagerness to learn more about ecology. Every human being has the inherent right to access green spaces, even if it is a one acre city park. Every human has a right to enjoy the great outdoors and be recharged from its wonders. Recently, I took a volunteer position as Park Steward of Rock Hill Park, a small green space in my neighborhood. Ecology is what interests me to no end, which is why I am pursuing graduate work. What makes it worth it is that I know that I will always be sharing this happiness with the lives I touch doing outdoor work, whether that is working for the Forest Service or a non-profit. Environmental advocacy, to me, is about blooming where you are planted- making a difference with what you have, where you are.

# **Bilezikian Essays**

**Name: Asha Bertsch**

## **Commitment to Social Justice**

I was born to an Indonesian mother and English father, and raised in a low-income Haitian-American neighborhood in Miami, Fl. Growing up in a diverse community of immigrants, I came to view differences as the defining details to complement our human similarities. This upbringing has afforded me great appreciation for the diversity and hardship that exist in our world, and in turn, a strong commitment to social justice. As a first-generation college graduate and female immigrant, I am acutely aware of the limitations instilled simply by the well intentioned lack-of-expectation received from parents, teachers and peers. Although I surpassed expectations and finished high school within the highest rank of my graduating class, I was an illegal immigrant, and ineligible for the merit-based scholarships available to American students. While many classmates attended college to appease their parents, I was on the other end of the spectrum, trying to convince mine that an education would be worth the financial burden we might incur. Undeterred, I applied for my green card, found ways to finance my education, and was the first in my family to earn a bachelor's degree. I have pushed societal boundaries by encouraging others to do the same. During high school, I enrolled in a mentorship program, tutoring English reading and grammar to ESOL elementary school students. In 2004, I traveled to Sumatra to assist in reconstruction efforts after the Indonesian tsunami. In 2011, I traveled to rural Haiti to teach courses for women in basic health and English language, and in 2013 I returned to the same village to live and teach English over the course of a year. I firmly believe it is our human responsibility to push beyond our differences and work to ensure equality, health, and happiness for one another. It is only then, that together, we can work to better appreciate and protect our ecosystems. Through my own life goals, I am committed to using my graduate education as a tool to help smallholding farmers implement ecologically sustainable practices while improving quality of life.

**Commitment to Environmental Protection:** Ultimately, I hope to work internationally as an agricultural extension agent with a part-time research and extension appointment, investigating my research interests with a view toward real-world innovations amenable to assisting small-scale farmers practice ecologically sound agriculture in the tropics. I believe that the overall betterment of our environment must first and foremost sustain the livelihoods of those most intricately entwined with its systems; the farmers. Subsistence and smallholding farmers work closest with the earth, and as such are subject to the greatest impacts of environmental fluxes. I believe in the application of research to empower farmers with better management practices and I believe that a holistic understanding of soil, plant and microbial interrelationships is paramount to helping farmers face the challenges of improving self-sufficiency and food sovereignty in an ever-industrializing environment while maintaining a sustainable relationship with their natural environment.

## **Bilezikian Essays**

**Name: Erin Crnkovich**

As a child, my level of environmental consciousness was both pronounced and simplistic. As a 12-year-old, I obsessively pulled every piece of recyclable material out of my family's trash before taking it to the curb each week. Many is the night I stubbed my toe in the dark because I insisted on turning off the lights before I left the room. I was sure that, if only everyone acted as I did, we could save the planet. It was just that easy. As I've grown and experienced more of the world, my understanding of environmentalism has also, thankfully, become more nuanced. During my sophomore year of college, I was able to participate in the Ecohouse living experiment. The Ecohouse was a form of specialty on-campus housing, a house that had been renovated using sustainable materials to serve as an example of the myriad ways that we can alter our methods of consumption and be more eco-friendly. The toilet was dual-flush, the kitchen countertops were made of recycled paper finished with an organic cashew resin, and there was a box of worms in the basement to whom we fed our food table scraps. My roommates and I also made an effort to buy locally grown and/or organic produce, and we gave up meat (except for bacon-no one should ever have to go without bacon). Although hailing from Nebraska, I had never before given much thought to the actual process of food production, and what I learned about modern American agricultural practices and their impact on the environment during my time at the Ecohouse shocked me. Furthermore, this was the first time I had ever had to concern myself with the price of my food, and it brought into stark relief the fact that a healthy, organic diet is often nothing more than a function of wealth. Because of this experience and my subsequent work, both as an English teaching assistant at an agricultural secondary school in Austria and volunteering on an organic farm in Norway, I have decided to dedicate my professional environmental efforts to the subject of food. Working through the non-profit sector, I hope to bring about greater public awareness to all issues surrounding food-from increasing its access in impoverished communities to protecting the rights of small-scale farmers, both here and abroad. The subject of food is multifaceted and spans across politics, culture, economics, and, of course, the environment, which is what makes the MES program, with its interdisciplinary approach, the ideal place to develop my professional skills. Because, as I've discovered in the last several years, there is far more to environmentalism than just recycling and shutting off the lights.

## Bilezikian Essays

**Name: Jeanne Dodds**

The Sara Ann Bilezikian Fellowship would facilitate an invaluable opportunity to study at Evergreen, where my educational plan is to examine the complex issue of plastic and toxic pollution in the marine environment. Specifically, I wish to address terrestrial sources of pollutants and their impacts on marine systems, how humans generate these problems, and ways to engage populations in solutions. I am especially committed to studies which include work with conservation groups in partnership with communities. A high proportion of marine pollutants originate from the world's most impoverished countries, creating an urgent need for inclusion and engagement of the perspectives of people in these regions; in the Masters of Environmental Studies program, understanding these issues and how to build collaborative relationships to address them would be my focus. My goal upon graduation from Evergreen will be a career in marine environmental research, community outreach and conservation. Values of social justice and environmental conservation have long been interwoven in my life and work. Human rights activism as a teenager developed into the role I held as Idaho Student State Coordinator for Amnesty International; volunteer work with nuclear watchdog organization Snake River Alliance founded my passion for non-violent environmental advocacy. In my career as a visual artist, I have exhibited, demonstrated and taught photography and illustration which critically examine the consequences of human intervention, exploitation, and engagement with the natural world. My current profession as an educator is framed by these indelible experiences and centers on the essential connection between humanitarian and environmental work. These understandings would be strengthened by studies in the MES program, translating into a productive career in community-centered marine preservation. As an independent business owner, specializing in environmental and visual arts education, I create educational programs which think critically about the relationship of ecological issues and socio-economic equity. Examples of courses I have developed include Green Design classes emphasizing access to ecological building practices by people at all economic levels. Other courses I have designed which explore pivotal relationships between social systems and environmental conditions include: illustration courses examining native plant and animal communities and their relationships to indigenous groups, and multi-media classes relating artworks by contemporary and historical Pacific Northwest first people with themes of displacement, discrimination, and cultural resilience. I have presented these classes for groups as distinct as environmental organizations, low-income and refugee communities, juvenile detention programs, and museums. This wide-ranging experience demonstrates my capacity to engage and value the perspectives of diverse audiences; studies at Evergreen would develop and support these qualities. Graduation from the Masters of Environmental Studies Program at Evergreen would allow me to diversify my understanding of ecological concerns, enlarge work opportunities available to me as an environmental professional, and enable me to refine interests and passions around marine ecology that have long been at the center of my creative, educational, and employment experiences. I am honored to be considered as a potential recipient of the Sara Ann Bilezikian Fellowship; sincere thanks for your consideration of this application.

## **Bilezikian Essays**

**Name: Clifford Dornbusch**

NOTE FROM GAIL – THIS PERSON’S APPLICATION MAY NOT BE REVIEWED IN FIRST ROUND

My name is Clifford P.S. Dornbusch, I have been traveling the world for the past five years trying to obtain a holistic view of the issues that plague our planet. Instead of focusing on individual problems I am working on finding the root of the largest issues that are prevalent across the globe. The most pertinent to me is clear cutting old growth forests. I intend on devoting my life to the protection and preservation of our planets remaining ancient forests. Conserving our planets resources for future generations of all life is so crucial for the continuation and sustained future of all biota on this planet. I hope to bridge a connection between practical conservation and modern resource extraction to help find a balance between ecology and economy, without sacrificing the precious and incomprehensible value of the ancient forests that still remain. Thank you for your consideration and support.

## **Bilezikian Essays**

**Name: John Kamah Kargbo**

Sierra Leone faces serious environmental threat as a result of the unregulated and unsustainable exploitation of its natural resources. The country also suffered a decade-long civil conflict that seriously wrecked critical infrastructures and drove talented Sierra Leoneans permanently abroad. Getting the country back to a sustainable development trajectory requires strong environmental policies and a peaceful and vibrant society. I am aware of the country's beautiful landscape, natural resources like diamonds, bauxite, iron ore, oil, etc., but translating such vast natural resources into something substantial is a major challenge in both the political and social factions. As a result, the country is often ranked bottom of United Nation's human development index: <http://www.sl.undp.org/content/sierraleone/en/home/countryinfo/>. The extreme poverty situation in Sierra Leone ushered a prevalence of conflicts over the resources in years past. My focus has been to address environmental conflicts and lead advocacy campaigns for less privileged communities. Cognizant of the problems, I have developed my career to address the numerous environmental concerns Sierra Leone faces, at the same time utilizing the resources in the most environmentally friendly and efficient manner. My ultimate dream is to design a new path to sustainable environmental management in Sierra Leone. With a very strong policy background gained from my current employment with the U.S. Embassy, and also having worked for the government of Sierra Leone advising on the economy and environment, I believe I am well positioned to influence change in Sierra Leone. In addition, I have worked with several local advocacy groups and have also successfully established a community organization that predominantly leads advocacy among communities across Sierra Leone. I was inspired by the extreme poverty situation and tragic death of my parents as a consequence of the civil war. These experiences left me determined to do whatever it takes to save people and the environment. Awarding me the Bilezikian Fellowship will not only help me achieve my dream career, but will support the efforts to alleviate suffering in an extremely impoverished nation that is striving to escape poverty but with little expertise. As the world focuses on eradicating poverty and building a safe and vibrant environment for all, I promise to work tirelessly upon successful completion of the MES program until Sierra Leone achieves its targets under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and effectively climb from its current state. I see the MES at Evergreen as the best fit for my career goals, and it matches perfectly with the needs of Sierra Leone.

## Bilezikian Essays

**Name: Chris Lower**

The ecological crises of today are coupled to an era of rampant globalization and predatory capitalism, the sum effect being that communities worldwide are perishing beneath a tide of unequal power relations, diminishing nature, and loss of social cohesion. Understanding these trends has led me to pursue academic curricula that connect the fields of urban ecology to social justice; it has also nudged me along a path of grassroots organizing and mobilization. I would like to take this time to share some past experiences that reflect these pursuits, as well as explore the mechanisms whereby Evergreen's Master of Environmental Studies will help bring my future goals to fruition. In November 2013 I participated in a self-designed study abroad opportunity that took me to Dehradun, India, where I enrolled in a two week course that used Gandhian philosophy to explore globalization, social justice, and ecological concerns. Consequently, I was taught how to strengthen democratic processes through grassroots advocacy, enhanced community education, and anti-violent protest. Upon my return, I used some of these lessons to increase campus awareness about local food insecurity and worked to increase student volunteer participation in our school's community garden. This is notable since produce generated from this garden is donated to area food banks. Moreover, I used research conducted in India to explore non-Western conceptualizations of environmental justice and worked with two assistant professors at the University of Washington Tacoma on the creation of a digital commons that will enhance the way in which this subject is presented to future students. Looking forward, it is my belief Evergreen's Master of Environmental Studies degree will enhance my social and environmental interests by introducing me to multi-disciplinary coursework that examines how human social constructs intersect with environmental concerns. This will, in turn, give me the communication and analytical skills crucial for fully engaging the environmental and social justice issues plaguing communities today. Once completed with my graduate work, I aim to become a college instructor where I can empower students with the knowledge required to not only design innovative programs focused on reducing humankind's ecological footprint, but to also cultivate the discourse necessary to question unchecked corporate growth and a burgeoning military-industrial complex – both of which are contributing to the erosion of human and non-human communities alike. While I never had the privilege of meeting Sara Ann Bilezikian, it seems she understood that our species stands at a crossroads: on one side looms a future of shrinking nature, social injustice, and the consequences that arise when a people's governance of the land and one another is based upon sybaritic principles rather than compassionate ones; on the other side is a future of reconciliation, sound environmental stewardship, and social healing made possible by taking responsibility for our habits as well as our actions. I wish to work toward making the latter pathway a reality by participating in Evergreen's Master of Environmental Studies degree program and ask that you consider me a candidate for your generous fellowship.

## **Bilezikian Essays**

**Name: Anna Mangan**

Creating a world where everyone has the ability to live in a just, peaceful, and safe environment is a heady goal. Many people, myself included, volunteer countless hours working towards this vision, through social and environmental work. For protecting the environment we live in is intricately connected with our mental, social, and economic health. An excellent example of how human rights and the environment are connected is the shady record of the Coca-Cola corporation. In India, among other abuses, Coca-Cola has been implicated with the unsustainable use of massive amounts of groundwater in rural villages. Bottling plants regularly discharge contaminated wastes into surrounding fields and rivers. Due to these discharges, not only are there groundwater shortages, but available water is non-potable, forcing villagers to purchase bottled water, from Coca-Cola. As an undergraduate on a campus that had an exclusive contract with Coca-Cola, I dedicated a great deal of time to this issue. I helped create the "Rethink Coke!" initiative on campus, which strove to educate students, faculty, and the community about the social and environmental abuses of Coca-Cola, and search for an alternative. It took many years of research, advocacy, and petitioning, but today Northland College's campus is Coke-free. This initiative that I created has grown into a student run vending service, which provides students with a variety of drink choices from companies screened for their environmental and social track record. All proceeds from the vending machines are given to a different campus club each month. Through this social action, and others I would come to be a part of on campus, I learned how interconnected the environment and human rights are. Nobody on this planet should have to worry about whether they will have clean water to drink, or if the soil is too poisoned to farm. When deprived of basic human rights, tensions rise, and avoidable violence often takes hold. While my academic and professional career has largely focused on the environment, I still feel the need to fight for social causes. With the MES program at Evergreen, I hope to study conservation not just with a scientific perspective, but with a social justice lens as well. After all, lasting environmental solutions won't be available unless they are beneficial to people. Everyone deserves clean drinking water, fresh air, and healthy soil. My future plan is to work towards these ends by protecting the natural areas and systems that support these basic needs.



## **Bilezikian Essays**

**Name: Arielle Marks**

I am pleased to be considered for the Sara Ann Bilezikian Fellowship. I demonstrate a commitment to social justice through my support of food and environmental justice projects in underserved communities. My return to school is entirely motivated by my desire to expand what skills and knowledge I can offer as an advocate for equal access to environmental resources. While working in New York City for AmeriCorps, I restored and maintained parks and gardens in low-income neighborhoods, and I planted street trees to address high asthma rates. As a volunteer with Brooklyn Permaculture (BKP), I supported underserved residents seeking to transform vacant lots into community gardens. With BKP, I worked to amplify community voices and secure garden resources by coordinating meetings with city council leaders, researching vacant lots, and connecting new gardeners to free waste streams (woodchips, compost, pallets etc). This collaboration supported the community's own efforts toward justice and empowerment through increased ownership of environmental resources. I continue to practice this commitment in my current position with GRuB (Garden Raised Bounty) in Olympia. As an intern with the Kitchen Garden Project, I work on community outreach and garden building with low-income families. My goal is to support food sovereignty through garden ownership and community building. This work engages my passion for cultivating relationships across varied experiences. As part of this project, I am engaged in an effort to map 20 years of backyard gardens and create a directory for gardeners, which will increase program resiliency by decentralizing our network and expanding community ownership of the program. This project has drawn out my strengths and helped me define my professional path. Studying with the MES Program is an opportunity for me to expand the skills I have to offer. I intend to learn GIS mapping and apply this tool toward legitimizing collective land and resource claims. Additionally, I am excited to pursue classes in Political Ecology to better understand how my work is intertwined with issues such as environmental racism, climate change and global development policies. Lastly, I seek to expand my professional networks and enhance my research skills to better support and evaluate community projects. I anticipate applying my education toward professional work in youth empowerment and community mapping within the environmental justice field. As I explore both of these interests through my work with GRuB, I find these are areas where my passions and strengths as a community organizer and environmentalist coalesce. This could include becoming an environmental educator with a youth empowerment program like GRuB's or working on land rights claims with a program such as the Aboriginal Mapping Network. I hope to explore these possibilities through my internship choices and research at Evergreen, and I expect to seek employment related to these interests when I complete the MES program. Thank you for considering me for The Sara Ann Bilezikian Fellowship. I am confident that I embody the social justice values recognized by this award and will remain committed to them far into my future.

## **Bilezikian Essays**

**Name: James Martin**

I completed my GED when I was sixteen and entered the work force early. Later, I joined the military and that allowed me to earn an AA & ATA. After Operation Desert Shield/Storm's military down sizing, I attended The Evergreen State College and completed my BA. I have worked seasonally for Young Adult Conservation Corps, Douglas Fir Tree Company, Northwest Trek, and US Forest Service. My work as a Forestry Tech and a Naturalist have given me experience identifying and distinguishing flora and fauna, collecting field data, and summarizing procedures & scientific findings in written and oral formats. I am also, familiar with a variety of equipment, maintenance requirements, and environmental restoration approaches. With the combination of federal and state employment, I have more than twenty years of public service. I mentored and provided on the job training to up and coming employees. I monitored and inspected work performed by contractors, conducted safety meetings, and was a designated electrical/electronics training instructor. I haven't always felt that I was serving the public, yet with time I had become a steward of public resources. However, viewing myself as a steward of public resources upset the established view in one of my former positions. In the winter of 2011 to illustrate concerns to management, I put together a Work Group Health presentation for participative management based on Dr. Thomas Gordon's book, Leadership Effectiveness Training. Dr. Gordon's book and compiling the presentation confirmed further for me, my believe in employee stewardship. From this presentation, as a work group we generated a list of possible solutions that could help the department with contract inspection and enforcement. The list was later forwarded to the regional manager for comment and or possible implementation. At another crew meeting, from a 2012 graduate course in Sustainable Leadership & Decision Making, I shared a decision making tool called the Sustainable Action Map (SAM). The graduate course strengthened my belief that thinking together, not necessarily thinking alike, builds long term dynamic partnerships and all stakeholders need to be involved for a plan to work. From this presentation, working as a group we decided to get a mix-use recycle container to dispose of the large amounts of water bottle waste we were generating. I am now returning to school in order to acquire new knowledge and skills that will help me continue my work advocating for resource stewardship. I've started my work on this pursuit by completing Master Studies prerequisites at the South Puget Sound Community College. At this time, I am using my savings to accomplish my educational goals. However, my finances are limited. My career plans are to complete a Masters program and later continue on toward a Ph.D. I am currently unemployed, and looking for part-time work that will allow me to focus on my studies. I am respectfully requesting financial assistance to complete my educational goals, so I can continue my work promoting resource stewardship. Thank you for your consideration.

## Bilezikian Essays

**Name: Hilary McGowan**

The years of environmental justice are not over. The memories of activists so dedicated to the protection of environmental advocacy by marching in the streets or chaining themselves to trees may no longer exist, but activism has morphed to reflect modern needs. Many environmental issues aren't on the tips of American's minds, or well understood, yet it's more important than ever for citizens to take charge and advocate for our environment. Even at a young age, I've been campaigning for social and environmental justice. I may not have had a comprehensive knowledge of the issue, but the issues called me like a pulling at my heart. I began by distributing flyers about global climate change to my Middle School, then creating a recycling program at my High School and getting volunteers through the Honor Society. I learned that becoming an advocate is more than just having opinions, but creating real and tangible change. Environmental issues are more than just protecting trees and animals. It's an international issue that impacts human rights and even peace between nations. Where products are sourced, even how they're sourced, influences the future of millions of lives and may even create or prevent conflicts. No matter what career path I end up in, I will live the values of advocating for environmental and social justice, for everything is connected. If accepted into the Masters of Environmental Studies Program at Evergreen, I plan on widening my knowledge on the links between sustainability and human rights. I have a background in Urban Planning and Policy as well as Biology. My long-term goal is to find a career in which I can combine my skills and interests. Upon graduation, I intend to use my environmental position as a place of advocacy, whether I'm working for the private or public sector. Implementing my beliefs is not just restricting my future job to a career with 'advocacy' in the description. It's how I live my life. Finding a way to contribute towards my community's environmental problems and rallying people together to actively give their time. Work with my state's leaders to fund low-income housing and homeless shelters. Serve on local committees as a representative and live as an advocate for local environmental and human rights. My career and my life will be joined to make a positive impact in the world. I believe that we all have the opportunity to stand up and make a difference, and it's my duty to at least try. Working for peace and environmental rights gives me extraordinary joy, and I hope I can share that with others.

## Bilezikian Essays

**Name: Emily Moore**

The environmental condition has always been a subject that has concerned and intrigued me. Always stunned by the lack of environmental understanding, I made it my mission, from an early age, to make my peers aware of the natural environment and the existing problems. I have completed projects designed to bring attention to the environmental condition. First, I developed a video to compare a random group's knowledge of global climate change to the best available information. Second, I entered a sculpture competition that required use of recycled materials, in which I won first place. I built a Bonsai Tree out of 98% recycled materials, designed to signify the connectivity of human disturbance in the environment, since the Bonsai Tree is used for connecting self to nature in a balance of power. Awareness and advocacy are good first steps toward the end goal of environmental protection. Protection efforts, on my part, have just begun to occur. To get started I needed to learn more about the functions of the earth in conjunction with human existence. Now that I am about to complete my Bachelors degree, I have branched out. I have been given the opportunity to attend the National Convention for Undergraduate Research this year, to present WCU's Environmental Science Capstone topic on the influence of University purchases on the institutions carbon footprint. Another opportunity that I have achieved participation in is membership of WCU's Sustainable Energy Initiative Committee, which is an organization that has been established to select and carry out projects for sustainable development at the University. This committee was developed promote community involvement in sustainable development by asking students, faculty, and community residents to submit project ideas that they would like to see happen on campus. As the Project Manager, I will be working directly with the people responsible for the selected project's development to ensure that it is moving toward completion. This is a significant opportunity for everyone on campus to get involved and push an interesting, environmentally responsible project to fruition. I have not been able to do much with social justice, but I intend to incorporate it in to my career. I want to practice Environmental Conservation Management and Policy and include the human element in the decision making process. I have developed concepts for public involvement and education, which I would like to use for public involvement and education on a specific problem and a potential solution. Education is the first step toward change, because the problem and the improvement directly influence human development, so you have to obtain public support to be successful. Sustainable development can improve the quality of life for people in poor and decent living conditions, so I plan to involve people located in damaged locations, develop it as a resource, or create an alternative, while improving the social and natural environments.

## **Bilezikian Essays**

**Name: Kathryn Myrsell**

### **Environmental Education to Share Experiences**

One of my first triumphs of working my concern for the environment into my work in education was when I won the Earth Day Project Contest at Rowan Avenue Elementary School in East Los Angeles in April of 1995. I was teaching a 5th grade bilingual class as a long term substitute teacher and we often took our scrap paper and took it one step further than the recycle bin. I bought a old electric blender and some old picture frames from the second hand store, and some fine meshed screen from the hardware store. I Stapled the screen to the picture frames to make deckles for each of my students. We ripped up the paper to be recycled in the room, and put it in the blender with water to make paper pulp. Then we set the deckles out in the sun to dry. We repeated this over and over again as the paper needed to be recycled in our room. I mention this special event because I believe in being an advocate of the environment and sharing what I have learned with others. I have worked for almost 20 years in education, teaching science and sharing my love of caves and the ocean. In the last six years, while still doing some substitute teaching and volunteering to teach local schools about the ocean and setting up a fish tank of local fish at Aberdeen High School, I have spent most of my time working on marine education, and running Westport Aquarium. I go to schools and teach everything from the water cycle to sharing my experiences volunteering for the Marine Mammal Stranding Network. My most recent passion is working with the fisherman to reduce the amount of fish waste in the Westport marina. I have created a cookbook in cooperation with the North Beach Artists Guild and the Westport Community to encourage fishermen to take their leftover fish on the bone home to cook with after filleting their fish. I am working on a composting program and a fish bones for schools program to put the fish waste to good use, and I will be presenting at the Portland Biocycle Conference this April regarding our composting work with fish waste from the Westport Marina. In taking the MES program I want to learn more about estuarine environments and work on prevention of eutrophication. I am interested in sharing the aquarium and marine environments with Jr. college students. In combination with our work at the aquarium I want to offer classes at local Junior Colleges. In combination with our family land surveying business, I would like to get a certificate in wetlands delineation. To prepare for that, I want to learn more about wetlands in my masters program at MES. As with my earth day project I want to learn more about how I can help the marine and estuarine environment, and pass on what I have learned to the communities I am a part of.

## **Bilezikian Essays**

**Name: Grey Pickett**

I'm a man of many disciplines and interests, from Mathematician to Mountaineer. However, when it comes to fighting for what I believe in, little in my life has fulfilled me as much working with Northwest Youth Corps for the last four years. Experiencing the wilderness provides clarity and spiritual or cathartic release for many people. However many of the youth of America are never given an opportunity to experience this first-hand. As a Crew Leader with NYC I was given groups of ten youth from all across the Northwest for five weeks at a time and helped them create a new community where they could discover themselves and expand their horizons. On a crew, everyone worked side-by-side as equals. Everyone cooked for and ate with each other, slept in the same tents, rode in the same vehicle, and sweated alongside each other on the worksite. I showed them they were capable of physical feats they never thought possible and taught them to be stewards of the land, as we cared for and improved the land we were living in for our short stint together. Almost every participant was able to go home with a burgeoned sense of self and an appreciation for the natural world, and perhaps most importantly the tools needed to fight make a difference on their own. At this point in my career I'd like to shift my focus towards the future. Even now, climate change is wreaking havoc to weather patterns across the world, and the leading scientists' most conservative estimates spell out cataclysmic changes in every ecosystem and habitat across the planet. Additionally, through years of mismanagement we are entering an age where our forests are being raved by unnaturally large and hot fires, leaving behind inhospitable wastelands. As we enter this new era there will be a demand for professionals who can predict and help mitigate the damage as much as possible. I want to use my education at Evergreen to put myself in a position to help fill this demand, providing educated solutions to the problems we will be facing. My goal is to be in a position where I can provide recommendations for direct action, preserving the forests and wild areas here in my home in the Pacific Northwest. Additionally, I'd like to facilitate community involvement in the implementation of these solutions, giving the local residents ownership over the health of lands they are surrounded with, and to enable the next generation of youth to gain a respect for nature. Thank you for your consideration.