

Betsy and Jesse Fink Career Development Program

ESF Career Fellows – 2022

These fellowships are made possible through donations to the ESF College Foundation, specifically The Fink Family Foundation (Betsy '79 and Jesse '79 Fink), ESF Alumni Association in memory of Robert M. Sand '50, and Douglas and Susan Cotton. Student awards ranged from \$700 to \$6,000.

- **Riley Becker**: Riley will intern with the Atlantic States Legal Foundation in Syracuse, NY to better understand the political and social landscape of the region as well as the legal ramifications of environmental projects. This opportunity will allow him to further engage with his passion and career goals of environmental advocacy.
- **Julie Capito**: Julie received funding support to publish a children's book, which will document trees and their dispersal agents, including trees humans disperse and their cultural importance within the Lacandon Maya communities. This experience is essential to Julie's career development, as her goal is to work with Latin American communities in the restoration and conservation of their forests and food systems. Educational and outreach materials to engage youth are a critical part of that mission.
- **Emma Chong**: Emma will be participating in a Mandarin Language Immersion program in Singapore this upcoming summer. As Emma has been studying Mandarin on her own for years, this immersion opportunity will strengthen her language skills and ability to communicate with others overall. Mandarin is an ever-expanding language, spoken by billions of people across the world, and will provide Emma both access and an edge to a multitude of internship and job opportunities.
- **Breath Hand**: Breath will be interning with the Ozark Folk Center State Park in Arkansas where she will assist in the management of gardens within the park as well as engaging and educating visitors on the importance of local biodiversity and conservation efforts. This internship will allow Breath networking opportunities within a population/community she intends to work directly with after attaining her PhD.
- **Anusha Lamsal**: With the professional ambition to become a leading scientist in academia or at a non-profit research institution in the field of natural resources conservation, Anusha has come to Syracuse from Nepal to earn her degree. She is receiving funding for a NYS driving class that will afford her the ability and access to utilize ESF campus vehicles and visit different sites in the Adirondacks, a necessity to achieve her career goals.
- **Isabel McCullough Valentin**: Isabel will work directly with The City of Syracuse Department of Neighborhood and Business Development as a summer intern where she will develop an action plan, informed by data and strong community engagement, dedicated to improving access to local foods. As a future environmental lawyer, it is intrinsic for Isabel to be knowledgeable on how economic growth can be concretely implemented and empower communities to thrive.
- **Eva Sideris**: Eva will be interning with The Nature Conservancy of New Mexico regarding conservation efforts of the Rio Grande Waterfund, whose efforts aim at restoring 600,000 acres of critical forests and headwaters of the Rio Grande in the next 20 years. Eva has a strong passion for water justice, and this internship will provide her with valuable data and access to stories from resilient communities that are adapting to coexist with changing water availability and climate change.