

## Alumni Sustainability Spotlight:

Mary Corey

By: Claire Bock



### **Year of graduation from Pacific**

Class of 2014

### **One fun fact about herself**

Corey is a “people person”. She loves people, and enjoys talking to and learning from others. She also considers herself a bit of a goofball who likes to make people laugh!

### **Current environmental work**

Corey currently works as office manager for Lower Nehalem Community Trust (LNCT), a non-profit land trust on the Oregon Coast, whose mission statement is:

***“To preserve land and nurture conservation values in partnership with an engaged community in the Nehalem region of the Oregon Coast.”***

[More information about LNCT](#)

Corey believes the work of LNCT is unique because of the organization’s willingness to preserve small properties. By acquiring small parcels, habitats are protected and fragmentation is avoided — providing corridors for species to roam safely. The elk herds that are native to the northern coast of Oregon are a prime example of one group this work benefits.

### **Upcoming projects in the area of the environment**

Corey has become interested in a local organization, Rockaway Beach Citizens for Clean Air and Water. She admires this grassroots effort for its passion to inform the general public of changes that are needed to protect the watershed, public health, and well being of ecosystems in the Rockaway Beach area.

### **How Pacific influenced her journey**

Corey credits Professor Rich Van Buskirk, her academic advisor, for putting her on the path to where she is today. Van Buskirk referred Corey to an internship with Clean Water Services, Washington County’s water treatment facility. They are forerunners in the utilization of fabricated wetlands to remediate wastewater. He also encouraged her to incorporate her interests in permaculture and botanicals in her capstone project. Without this experience she believes she wouldn’t have the job she has today. She also cites Professors Deke Gunderson and Marcus Welsh as important figures in her time here at Pacific.

### **Advice for Pacific students wanting to pursue careers in sustainability and the environment**

Corey advises current students to, “Take advantage of all the opportunities offered at Pacific and work closely with those you feel can help you discover your passion.” She feels that her academic advisor Rich VanBuskirk was key to her success in her current work. Corey also says that students should, “keep in mind the practicality of what they’re studying, and lastly realize that the amount of effort you put into your academic experience is directly proportionate to what you will take away.”