

UC Merced Connect: Exhibits take look at research

Published Tuesday, Jul. 30, 2013

Not everyone can go into the Sierra Nevada and experience snowpack research or wildlife conservation firsthand.

That's why Robin Milford, access services librarian and exhibits coordinator for the UC Merced library, has brought those experiences to the campus.

"We have a lot of really great exhibit spaces, and I think they are best used when we're showing what's really going on, on the campus," Milford said.

In her first year coordinating library exhibits, Milford has chosen to highlight campus research in the library displays.

Milford is starting with two shows — "SNAMP: Learning to Implement Adaptive Management in the Sierra Nevada" and "DLM Lab Tour: Critical Zone Observatory."

The Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Program is a joint effort by the University of California, state and federal agencies, and the public to study management of Sierra forest lands. Its six teams of university scientists study the predicted and actual effects of management practices on water, fire and forest ecosystem health, and wildlife.

The DLM Lab Tour, based on Downtown Life Magazine writer K Chico's series of stories about UC Merced's research labs, features the Southern Sierra Critical Zone Observatory, an area near Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks where many UC scientists do research.

Each exhibit is free and open to the public. To learn more, call (209) 631-6954.

Management major studying in South Africa

Senior Alexandra Hamilton is spending five months at the University of Cape Town in South Africa, studying global markets and business.

San Diego-native Hamilton, a management major, was inspired by a global markets and investing course with visiting Professor Mark Harris.

"I talked to him nonstop about taking full advantage of my education," Hamilton said. "Then one day in class, he was talking about how we need to take on the challenges of developing countries."

After class, she went to the Office of International Affairs. She chose the South Africa program because of its location and opportunities.

"It's kind of a hidden gem," she said.

Hamilton also got involved with Associated Students at UC Merced her sophomore year as a

member of the Campus Activities Board. She ran for director of student activities for 2012-13 and became the first female CAB director.


Hamilton credits staff members Enrique Guzman, Molly Bechtel and Kristen Hlubik as mentors who have helped her learn to be bold, creative and dedicated as a director.

"I've learned how to develop my leadership skills, not only to lead the way for others, but to encourage others to lead," she said. "My freshman year I was pretty quiet, but now everyone knows me as the girl who is able to accomplish what she wants."

After South Africa, Hamilton will finish her bachelor's degree and pursue a master's degree in business administration with an emphasis in international relations.

© Copyright The Sacramento Bee. All rights reserved.

- Read more articles by UC Merced Connect

[Share](#)[Facebook](#)[Twitter](#)[Share](#)[StumbleUpon](#)[Email](#) [Order Reprint](#)