

Undergraduate Research Fellow 2004-2005



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I became interested in science in general when I was in junior high. There was no one who was the most influential in guiding me into ecology. For as long as I can remember, I have always been interested in the environment and how humans interact with it.



Deciding to study ecology or environmental science came about after studying biology and chemistry, because I saw how the basics of natural sciences are used in ecology and environmental science. All the sciences are interconnected and the problems facing the world today can be best addressed with a combination of science, social science, and humanities approaches.

I have overcome many challenges that consisted of learning disabilities, family illness, personal illness, not enough resources to pay for school and the basics to live, etc. I have persevered because I believed in myself and my dreams and goals.

I learned about the SEEDS fellowship program by searching the internet. My fellowship project is about weed management strategies in landrace maize fields in the highlands of Chiapas, Mexico. I spent the summer interviewing 60 subsistence farmers on how they manage their weeds.

The only advice I can give is to find out what it is you don't like to do. That is the starting point to find out what it is you like to do or are interested in. What is it that you love to do (that you have a passion for)? What would you do even if you did not get paid for it?

Ecology is important to me because it encompasses some aspects of sciences, social sciences, and the humanities. It helps one to understand the world around you.