

Hannah Phares

B.S. in Environmental Science (Class of 2016)

As an undergraduate, Hannah didn't always know what her major should be. She began her education at the University of Toledo in bioengineering. As Hannah took more classes her interest shifted to biology, and finally to environmental science. Dr. Jonathan Bossenbroek's general ecology course was her first introduction to the department. Along with Dr. Todd Crail's introduction to environmental studies, Hannah's time in the department influenced her to pursue a bachelor's degree in environmental sciences. The classes made her appreciate the role each individual plays in the future of our ecosystem.

Outside of her studies, Hannah interned at the Valerie H. Schindler Wildlife Rehabilitation Center at the North Carolina Zoo. At the center, she helped the staff provide veterinary and rehabilitation services to orphan and injured animals native to North Carolina with the ultimate goal of reintroduction into the wild.

Hannah is currently working as a wildlife biologist for the Institute of Wildlife Studies (IWS). IWS is a worldwide organization that is dedicated to conserving wildlife, habitats and biodiversity. She works on Rota Island in the Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands and, along with three other individuals, works together to protect the endangered Mariana Crow. Work for the team includes reducing the non-native predator population threatening the Mariana Crow. The reduction in predators will lead to higher survival rates of crow fledglings.



“The environmental field is SO BIG - and the best way to get involved and figure out what you like best is to take on everything you possibly can. Take any opportunity you have! Even if you end up doing something you don't like, at least you know that much and have gained experience.”