



The Woodinville Weekly

The Northlake News | The Valley View
Community Newspapers Since 1976

[HOME](#) [LOCAL](#) [SPORTS](#) [SPECIAL SECTIONS](#) [ANNOUNCEMENTS](#) [VALLEY VIEW](#) [ABOUT US](#) [ADVERTISE](#) [ARCHIVES](#) [E-EDITION](#)

[Home](#) / [Local](#) / [Features](#) /

Local women earn biology degrees through program at Woodland Park Zoo

LOCAL WOMEN EARN BIOLOGY DEGREES THROUGH PROGRAM AT WOODLAND PARK ZOO

14 Jan 2015 09:22 | Written by Briana Gerdeman |

Two local women have earned master's degrees in biology through a program that involves studying at Seattle's Woodland Park Zoo, volunteering locally, taking classes through a university in Ohio and even, optionally, traveling to Belize.

Anna Busse of Woodinville and Sarah Crumb of Bothell graduated in December from the Advanced Inquiry Program (AIP) offered through Miami University in Ohio. To earn degrees through the AIP, students take online classes through Miami University and study at one of eight "master institutions" throughout the country, including Woodland Park Zoo, said Jamie Bercaw Anzano, director of communications for Project Dragonfly.



Anna Busse (left) shows an Aplomado falcon during a demonstration at the Raptor Center at Woodland Park Zoo. (Photo courtesy of Stephanie Zimsen)

Project Dragonfly is a science education initiative that encompasses the AIP as well as other projects, Bercaw Anzano said. It began in the 1990s as a children's science magazine and was the first time that children's questions were placed alongside adults' research. For example, Bercaw Anzano said, there was an article by the renowned primatologist Jane Goodall next to an article by a young girl about her science project to keep her cereal from getting soggy.

The AIP takes two and a half years for most students to complete their master's in biology. It's aimed at working professionals, especially people who want to be science educators.

There's also a strong emphasis on social and ecological change and on learning through scientific inquiry.

Busse has worked at Molbak's Garden & Home in Woodinville for three years as an indoor plant specialist, and just accepted a position as an assistant buyer of tropical plants. She also accepted an adjunct instructor position with the AIP and will teach two online courses through Miami University.

Martial Arts Intro

50% Off

First Month Tuition
on Any Training Program
New students only.



425-486-0900
www.woodinvillema.com

AccuWeather.com®

[Woodinville, WA](#)

Currently | [Hourly Info](#) | [15 Days](#) | [Videos](#)



Mostly sunny

49°F

RealFeel®: 42°F

Winds: S at 14 mph

Your Extended Forecast

<p>Today</p>  <p>High 51°/Low 39° Mostly cloudy</p>	<p>Tomorrow</p>  <p>High 49°/Low 46° Evening rain, heavy at times</p>
<p>Sunday</p>  <p>High 51°/Low 44° Cloudy with a few showers</p>	<p>Monday</p>  <p>High 49°/Low 37° Considerable cloudiness</p>

[Weather Forecast](#) | [Weather Maps](#) | [Weather Radar](#)

As part of her portfolio for the AIP, she taught free seminars at Molbak's about orchids and local plants. (For information about an upcoming class Busse is teaching, see page 9.)

Her other work through the AIP included acting as a student leader for a class, submitting an article about wolves' role in their ecosystem for publication in a journal and volunteering at Woodland Park Zoo, where she helped develop web pages explaining to educators how they can get involved with conservation and involve their classes.

Crumb is also heavily involved with Woodland Park Zoo — she volunteers with the waterfowl and now has a part-time job there.



As part of the AIP, Sarah Crumb traveled to Belize to study animals at the Belize Zoo, such as this black jaguar named Lucky Boy. (Photo courtesy of Sarah Crumb)

According to Jenny Mears, a community engagement coordinator and AIP adviser at Woodland Park Zoo, many students start out as volunteers at the Zoo and enroll in the AIP with the goal of working for the Zoo or a comparable institution. The vice versa also happens: some start out as students and become volunteers, Mears said.

Crumb now integrates her environmental knowledge with her undergraduate degree in art history for two other volunteer opportunities.

"While I love that topic [art history], when I got out of college, I reevaluated what I was

interested in and went back to wanting to be a zookeeper as a little kid," Crumb said.

Crumb volunteers as an art docent for the Northshore School District and as a Girl Scout troop leader, and she tries to incorporate environmental awareness into the projects she does with kids. For example, next month, she'll have the kids study birds and make their own field guides as part of the Great Backyard Bird Count.

To earn her degree, Crumb also published a paper with a research team about how children behave in the play areas of a zoo. She also went on a 10-day trip to Belize, where she studied animals at the Belize Zoo, traveled throughout the country and saw community conservation projects, such as homeowners protecting their land from howler monkeys so the monkeys can live in that area.

Similar to Busse becoming an instructor for the AIP, Crumb hopes to keep working in the education department of Woodland Park Zoo. But she knows that employees at the Zoo tend to stay in their positions for a long time, so she's not in a rush.

Find out more about the Advanced Inquiry Program at www.aip.miamioh.edu or www.zoo.org/aip. You can also attend an informational forum on Jan. 28 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Woodland Park Zoo's Education Center. For more information or to RSVP, please email aip@zoo.org or call 206-548-2581.