

“One’s destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things.” –Henry Miller

As a developing photographer, the most important thing I have learned is to use



more than one lens, angle or vantage to capture a subject. Widening my perspectives and studying a topic from (literally) more than one viewpoint has expanded not only my photography skills, but also how I perceive other activities and issues. One

such changed perspective is my feelings towards environmental activism, which for the longest time I’d viewed as little more than impassioned voices reciting rhetoric (“Green is good! Carbon is bad!”) My cynical perceptions were recently challenged when my school’s environmental concerns organization (ECO) gave me the opportunity to take photos at Powershift, a clean-energy conference in Chapel Hill, NC, involving over 300 students from surrounding states. While documenting this event I found not rhetoric but real facts, backed up by feasible plans to make a difference in how our nation produces and consumes energy. By approaching this conference from a new and unbiased point of view, I left Chapel Hill feeling not only more knowledgeable about the clean energy movement but inspired to help promote such efforts, which has resulted in me becoming ECO’s official event photographer.



Covering Powershift and similar events has helped me realize my career goals: I intend to focus on conservation and documentary work, travelling to environmental

hotspots and capturing their issues with stills and video in a way that they can be used to educate and provide information, viewpoints and potential solutions. As Costa Rica has one of the premier eco-tourism industries and conservation-focused governments in the world, I am sure that my studies in the Monteverde Tropical Ecology and Conservation program will give me significant insight from the perspective of both a biologist and a photojournalist, provide a more global view of many environmental issues, and help me learn how to turn my career goals a reality.



One unpleasant reality I must face is the cost of studying abroad. My parents own a family business—a retreat center that services nonprofit groups—and they have underwritten the education of my brother (a junior in college) and myself to the best of



their ability. Unfortunately their business (like many small businesses) has been affected by the recession, and starting next year they will also be looking for ways to support my sister—who currently participates in the federally subsidized free and reduced lunch program—when she enters college. While I have always been eager to work—I bought my first camera with \$1200 made during my junior year of high school—I spent this past summer as the Frank Scalli Summer Intern for the Boston Sea Rovers, which provided

wonderful opportunities to improve my diving, research, and underwater photography skills, but no time to earn money. Unfortunately as well, budget cutbacks this semester eliminated the work study position I had held on campus last year. As such, I am applying for the John E. Bowman, Jennifer Ritzmann, and International Study Program Scholarships because their aid will be invaluable towards easing my family's financial burdens. I want to explore our beautiful world and see it through as clear and open a lens as possible; these scholarships would certainly help to provide that view.



The view from my front yard, proving that you don't have to travel far to find inspiration.