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### Biosketch

I am currently a Ph.D candidate in Ecology and Environmental Sciences at Montana State University in the US. My dissertation focuses on sub-ice aquatic systems in Antarctica, specifically biogeochemistry and microbial ecology. I have spent five field seasons working in the Antarctic since 2007. In 2013, the team that I am part of (the WISSARD project) successfully drilled into Subglacial Lake Whillans, a shallow lake that lies 800 meters beneath the surface of the Antarctic ice sheet. My research focused on life detection and the microbial communities in the lake water, their activities, and their relationships to carbon and nitrogen cycling. During the 2014-2015 Antarctic field season, our team studied the estuary associated with the Subglacial Lake Whillans outflow beneath the Ross Ice Shelf, and my is focused on using stable isotopes to understand the food web and microbial processes under the ice. I plan to defend my dissertation by the end of 2015.

I earned a BA in Biology from Colorado College (US) in 2003, and an MSc from Montana State University in 2010. My MSc project was part of an IPY funded program to study life in the ice-covered lakes of the Antarctic Dry Valleys during the transition to polar night, and spanned three Antarctic field seasons from 2007 to 2010.

The Antarctic is an amazing place to be a scientist, and the importance of understanding the ecology of our polar regions is only increasing in the modern world. I enjoy sharing my experiences and inspiring the next generation of polar scientists through outreach activities aimed at the general public and K-12 classrooms. In my spare time, I practice my gardening skills, read, hike, travel, and visit as many microbreweries as possible.

### Statement of interest

Since joining APECS in 2009 and joining the Council in 2011, I have greatly benefitted from making international connections and been able to hone my networking and organizational skills. I served on the 2014-2015 Excom, and if re-elected to the ExCom for 2015-2016, I look forward to helping ensure that the opportunities afforded to me by APECS continue to be available to other polar early career scientists. One of the benefits of belonging to APECS is its ability to liaise between diverse members of the polar community, including across disciplines and nations. Such an international scope benefits from participation by representatives from all countries, which can sometimes be challenging across great distances. This message was often repeated and was well received at the APECS World Summit in June 2015. One of my goals as

an Excom member is to help continue to strengthen APECS' internal connections so that our members can benefit from one another.

A main objective of the 2014-2015 Excom was to analyze the outcome of the APECS Organizational Review. I am currently working on translating those recommendations into a chapter for the Strategic Plan that will help chart APECS' future path and shape the resources that APECS members will create and have access to. We received great feedback from the APECS membership on these projects, and I would like to see them through as a member of the 2015-2016 Excom.

My non-APECS leadership experience includes founder and Chair (2 years) of my departmental graduate student organization, Chair of the campus chapter of Women in Science and Engineering, and various organizing committees for conferences. In addition to my experience on committees and in working groups, my dissertation research is part of a large project, which spans 12 institutions in 3 countries. Field season planning, data analysis, and manuscript preparation are all collaborative processes on my project, and require the ability to communicate across disciplines, time zones, cultural differences, and language barriers. My dissertation research is also interdisciplinary, spanning microbiology, geology, and chemistry, and drawing on the experiences of my colleagues in hydrology and glaciology. Consequently, I deeply value the interdisciplinary nature of APECS and will continue to facilitate opportunities for members from all backgrounds.

I anticipate limited availability during parts of October and November as I prepare to defend my dissertation.

#### References

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