

# Learning *By* Doing



*Bryce McLaughlin '11*

Through experiential learning, Pacific students apply what they have learned in the classroom, gain practical experience in their areas of study and get a clearer sense of their career goals. Here are two recent examples of opportunities made possible by Pacific Fund grants.



*Anne Fisher '09*

**BY RHASHAD PITTMAN**

## Coastal Marshes Research

Anne Fisher '09 immersed herself last summer in field research at Bodega Bay, about 60 miles northwest of San Francisco. For two months, the Petaluma native studied the bay and how land-use changes affect its environment. In particular, she studied the environmental impact that a roadway had on coastal marshes in the area.

"It was a great experience," says Fisher, an earth and environmental sciences major. "It was the first time that I was able to take a project and make it my own from start to finish."

Funded mostly by a grant through the Pacific Fund, her research involved taking samples from the marshes and studying them at the Bodega Marine Laboratory run by UC Davis. Working under the guidance of Pacific Professor Laura Rademacher, Fisher looked at the amount of organic sediment being deposited in the marshes, such as dead plants brought in by the tide, and the mixing of salt water and fresh water.

Fisher says her research project has been an invaluable experience. "It's made me feel more passionate about my classes," she says. "I realize now that you're not just learning

something to be tested on. You're learning to be able to make practical applications. You can really make a difference in the world."

Fisher presented her findings on campus at the Pacific Undergraduate Research and Creativity Conference in April and at a Geological Society of America regional conference in British Columbia, Canada in May.

Once she graduates, Fisher would like to work at a national park to study water resources. She is also considering graduate school.



Anne Fisher and Bodega Bay Marine Lab staff member May Roberts taking core samples in the Rail Ponds marsh.



Bryce McLaughlin brought in leading entertainment lawyer Michael Aczon to present the workshop on artists' rights.



Anne Fisher and Kimi Matsushima '10 take a long core sample.

### Music Artists' Rights

In February, Bryce McLaughlin '11 was able to organize a workshop that explored the legal rights of music artists. Supported by the Pacific Fund, the event allowed the 20-year-old to research entertainment law, a career field he hopes to enter. The Artist Rights Workshop attracted nearly 80 people, including students, faculty members, local residents and musicians. It featured Michael Aczon, one of the country's leading entertainment lawyers, as its keynote speaker.

The preparation for the event — researching contracts, royalties and copyright law and talking in depth with Aczon — was exciting and gratifying, McLaughlin says. Business Law Professor Thomas Brierton and Music Management

Professor Keith Hatschek helped guide him through the process of organizing the event, which involved sessions on copyright basics, contracts and recording session releases.

McLaughlin said the Pacific Fund grant was crucial to the workshop's success. "I'm not entirely sure how we would have done it without that help," McLaughlin says.

At the workshop, participants were divided into groups that explored common legal disputes in the music industry. Aczon, an entertainment lawyer for 26 years, said the workshop was a great learning tool for McLaughlin because it allowed him to implement legal theories with realistic scenarios. Author of "The Musician's Legal Companion," Aczon said such experiential

learning events allow students to learn how to be resourceful and help them identify their passion.

"I think that learning outside of the four walls of the classroom is the absolute best way to integrate what is theoretical with what is practical," Aczon says.

A Sacramento native, McLaughlin grew up playing in youth jazz bands. While backstage at music festivals, he would hear horror stories from professional musicians about losing out on royalties and having their work stolen. Those stories served as an inspiration to work on behalf of artists. His business law and music management courses and his experience organizing the workshop reaffirmed his interest in entertainment law, he says.

"I can honestly say now that I love the material," McLaughlin says. "I love entertainment law."



Bryce McLaughlin grew up playing in youth jazz bands.



*Gifts to Pacific Fund support hands-on learning through grants for experiential learning, study abroad and community service. See [www.Pacific.edu/PacificFund](http://www.Pacific.edu/PacificFund) for more information.*