

Priscilla Rader
Class of 2012

One fun fact about herself

She is a big fan of cooking and loves the challenge of taking whatever food she has available at her house and making a delicious meal!

Current environmental work

Rader graduated with her Juris Doctor (JD) degree from Lewis and Clark Law School last year, but realized that she wanted to use her legal expertise in a unique way. Rather than practicing law, she got a job working for the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF), a non profit organization that protects the lives and advances the interests of animals through the legal system. Rader's position at ALDF is Education Coordinator.

As Education Coordinator, she manages education initiatives for different groups including attorneys, law students and the general public. She works on many projects, but some of her most recent have included designing an online animal law summer school series, creating Continuing Legal Education courses for attorneys, arranging conferences and running mentorship programs.



All of Rader's education initiatives are geared toward animal law which often crosses into environmental law. This includes addressing climate change, factory farms, wildlife management and other issues which have profound influences on the environment. She also has worked in educating people about the "Ag-gag" Laws. This controversial set of laws prevents people from obtaining undercover footage from factory farms including those that notoriously abuse animal rights and negatively impact the environment.

Upcoming projects in the area of the environment

Rader is currently working on new Continuing Legal Education opportunities including ones relating to climate change, factory farming and environmental impacts in light of animal issues.

How Pacific influenced her journey

Rader says that Professor Ramona Ilea was one of the people that had the greatest impact on her in her time at Pacific. When Rader initially found out she was accepted to Pacific, she emailed Ilea to talk about animal ethics which turned into a long email exchange about life goals and opportunities in the field. Ilea was also instrumental in helping her become the president of

the Animal Ethics Club, and getting her involved in the campus sustainability committee. She says that she will always be grateful to Ilea for opening the door to new opportunities, giving her a chance, and believing in her.

Additionally, Rader thanks The Center for Civic Engagement for helping her become more aware of the importance of connecting with others, discussing issues in society and collaborating. Professor Dave Boersema also was instrumental in sparking her interest in law school and social justice issues.

Advice for Pacific students wanting to pursue careers in sustainability and the environment

For students interested in environmental law Rader says, "Try not to tie yourself down. Look at the field holistically and get a well-rounded education. Take all sorts of environmental classes, but also dig deeper, take other classes, and find connections. The world is changing at a rapid rate with the environment and regulations. We need creative thinkers who diversify, think long term and don't just focus on what people are doing now."

For students interested in fields other than law, Rader notes that there are lots of areas to get involved in. Whether it be teaching, business, journalism or some other field, Rader's advice is, "Discover what you like, find what you're good at and use it to better the world we live in."