

Spotlight on Environmental and Earth Sciences Graduates

- Makenzie Zima '16 -

Master of Science Degree Candidate, Toxicology

Department of Environmental Health Sciences
University of Michigan School of Public Health

Doane Highlights:

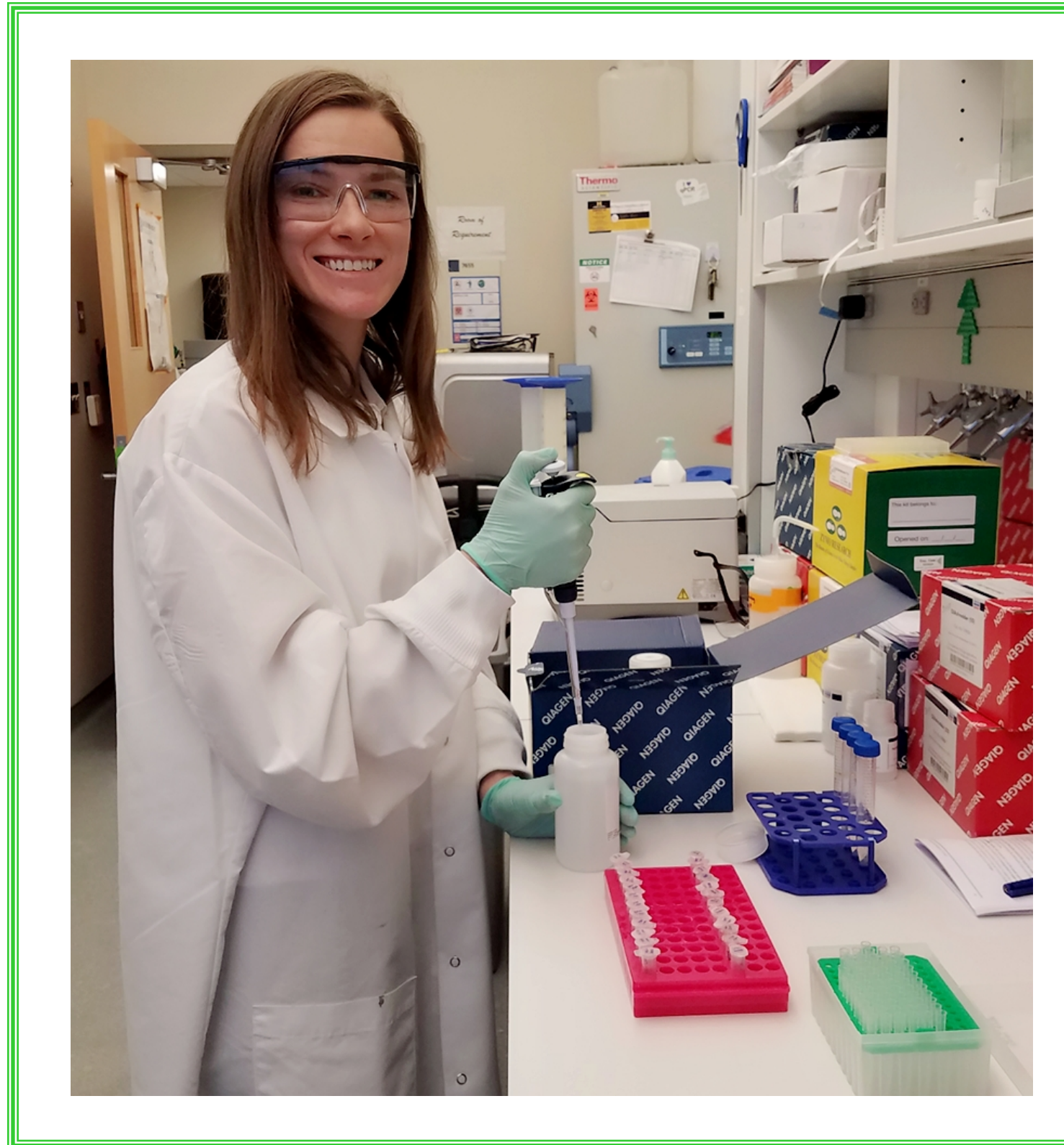
I have very fond memories of Doane College, or as it is now known Doane University. As a freshman I initially felt swept away by the new opportunities that come along with being a college student, however, Doane facilitates an inclusive community environment that was easy to make friends in and get guidance from faculty members. As the years passed, I became involved in many clubs and participated in many school-based opportunities that help to reveal my interest in public health, science, and the environment.

Current Highlights:

After I graduated with a B.S. in Environmental Science, I decided to continue my education at the University of Michigan where I am getting my Master of Science degree in Toxicology at the School of Public Health. I am currently investigating the role of phthalates, a chemical added to plastics, on maternal outcomes. Phthalates are known endocrine disrupting chemicals and have been associated with obesity in epidemiological studies. It's now my job as a toxicologist to investigate the mechanism by which this could be happening. After I graduate from the University of Michigan, I plan on working for either industry or government with the potential to come back to academia to complete my Ph.D. degree.

Makenzie Remembers:

While at Doane I had many opportunities to become engaged in wildlife, public service and discover myself. I had the unique opportunity to study diverse marine communities and attain hands-on experience with aquatic creatures at SeaCamp in Big Pine Key, Florida. I used my sophomore year spring-break to travel to Moore, Oklahoma to help the community devastated by the 2013 tornado. Through working at the Perkins Library I made connections to travel to the Czech Republic and discover more about my Czech heritage. These experiences help shape the person I have become today and made lasting connections that have furthered my student and professional lives.



Environmental and Earth Sciences Department