"This was the real root of what I wanted to study. Being able to conduct research that could later be applied to assisting vulnerable communities was exactly what I wanted to do. I was able to see how environmental studies could better the world, and this continues to be a large part of my motivation."
Webb is currently a graduate student in the Master of Environmental Studies (MES) program at the Evergreen State College (Olympia, Wash.) and works as the Education and Evaluation Coordinator for the Sustainability in Prisons Project (SPP) of Washington. With SPP, she coordinates program evaluations as well as a monthly science and sustainability lecture series held at two Washington prisons, a women's center and a men's center. SPP's programs include composting, gardening, endangered species rehabilitation, environmental education, beekeeping, and more in prisons across the United States.

Webb readily admits that her UAH education and vast research experience prepared her for the position at SPP, and her graduate program at Evergreen. "All my undergraduate experiences led me to where I am now," she said. "I am over halfway into my first quarter as a graduate student, and I am seeing every day the benefits of my undergraduate work at UAH."
Her SPP lecture topics range from climate change to beekeeping and involve local environmental professionals, educators, non-profits, and graduate students. Lecturers are able to share their knowledge with a group of people that are often overlooked when it comes to sustainability, as well as personally benefit from engaging with people outside of their typical work setting.

Never imagining herself working in a prison system, Webb explains why she didn't think twice about accepting the unique research opportunity.

"The position was available for incoming graduate students of the environmental studies program at Evergreen, and as soon as I saw it, I gathered my things and applied," she said. "I viewed it as another amazing research opportunity and honestly had no idea what I was getting myself into. I don't consider myself a natural scientist, but instead
more of a sociological thinker. I just want to find ways to better the world through environmental education and my position with SPP allows me to do just that."

Webb said her future plans include finding a job that keeps her located in Olympia, or near Seattle or Portland. Ideally, she would like to work part-time with an environmental justice non-profit group and teach environmental education on the side. "While I have enjoyed my time in research and academia, I want to place myself in a career of active, community work. I will complete my master of environmental studies next summer, and from there move onto my set career path."

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