Hey there, RIA listeners! This month the “Research in Action” team is taking a break from our regular production schedule to offer you some of our best archived episodes on research and the environment. We hope you enjoy these episodes as we get rested up for all new content in 2020.

In the first episode of the month, we’re sharing my interview with Dr. Laurie Juranek, an Assistant Professor in the College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences at Oregon State University. In this episode, Laurie shares about her experiences conducting research in the Arctic. Here’s a short clip:

I study life and death in the ocean, and that’s important in a kind of greater sense, because I want to know about carbon cycling on the planet, and so knowing about the balance of life and death in the ocean tells me about how biology is taking up carbon and sequestering it, holding it for timescales ranging from days to potentially millennia.

In the second episode of the month, we’re sharing my interview with Dr. Ian Munanura, an Assistant Professor in the department of forest ecosystems and society at Oregon State University. On this episode, Ian shares about his research on ecotourism. Here’s a short clip:

From early on we thought ecotourism is about environment, so some people defined it as an environmental travel where you go to natural areas and – you know, enjoy them. Uh so it’s a tour that is actually designed around natural areas – that is tourism that is managed for the natural environment. That contributes toward the conservation of the natural environment that is educational to the traveler – the traveler goes to these natural areas for travel and then comes back educated about the environment. But over the years people have incorporated the human dimension into it – to the environment, so actually it’s a tourism – it’s a tourism opportunity where a traveler goes to theses natural areas or tourism destinations, and in addition to contribute toward the environment they also contribute to the economic and social world of these communities.

In the third episode of the month, we’re sharing my interview with Dr. Reem Hajjar, an Assistant Professor of Integrated Human and Ecological Systems in the Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society at Oregon State University. In this episode, Reem shares about her international research in forestry. Here’s a short clip:

It’s really hard to see it as a discipline because it incorporates so many different disciplines in this term “forestry.” I mean, in the past, we used to think forestry just purely as like “people cut down trees and they know how to grow them again to cut them down again.” And sure, that was probably what it was like a few decades ago, but since then we’re really evolved to a more holistic view of the forest. And now, we have, I mean we still have the forest engineers and such and the silvaculture people, the people who are like experts in growing trees, but now forestry encompasses so much more. You have forest ecology, you have people concerned with people, humans, and their relationships with forests and policy, and materials that come from the forest that can be used for other products.

In the fourth episode of the month, we’re sharing my interview with Dr. Ludovico Cademartiri, assistant professor in the department of materials, science and engineering at Iowa State University. In this episode, Ludovico discusses his research on plants. Here’s a short clip:

What we are especially interested beside this physical characteristics of the environment like, as I said, temperature, humidity and so forth, is the potential for biological interactions. So, interactions between the plants and other organisms surrounding it, which could be microorganisms—especially in the root system, but not only in the root system, as well as other plants. So the reason, the potential for plants to interact both above ground and below ground with other plants and that’s where I think the questions become rapidly, extremely fascinating in terms of what plants might, what could be the hidden life of plants in a sense.

In the fifth episode of the month, we’re sharing my interview with Dr. Michelle Covi, an assistant professor of practice at Old Dominion University in the Department of Ocean, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences and a Virginia Sea Grant extension partner. In this episode, Michelle shares about her research on sea level rise. Here’s a short clip:

I started out doing research in saltmarsh ecology and I was really interested in salt marshes> Um but uh – as I had done more research, I came to understand that the sustainability of saltmarshes, and the management of salt marshes really didn’t have so much to do with understanding their dynamics as understanding how people interact with them. And so – and one of the biggest threats to saltmarshes is sea level rise, and how humans interact with sea level rise and saltmarshes. And therefor I started to look at how people looked at the perception of risks associated with sea level rise.

Thanks for checking out this month’s preview clips!

I’m Katie Linder – enjoy the episodes!