

Bucknell graduate Gillett pursues her passion for the environment

BY NANCY MARRS

A junior year Advanced Placement class in environmental science at Marblehead High School sparked an interest in Fehr Gillett and it led her to pursue a major in environmental studies and a minor in public policy at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.

The recent college graduate was drawn to her major's multi-disciplinary approach to examining human interactions with the environment and related social, economic and political factors.

"This field of study provided the opportunity to do something meaningful with my life and it aligned with my passion for combating climate change and promoting sustainability," states Gillett, who was a

high-achieving, dean's list student. "I love being able to feel proud of what I do and knowing that I'm doing something to mitigate the climate crisis."

Taking classes in comparative politics, research methods and environmental policy, among other subjects, Gillett was a member of the Alpha Lambda Delta academic honors society and the environmental honors society Epsilon Eta, serving as its community service chairperson. She joined the Alpha Xi Delta sorority, played intramural sports and worked as an ambassador at Bucknell's Center for Sustainability and the Environment.

During her junior year, Gillett had a life-changing study abroad experience in Florence Italy, along with the opportunity to travel and explore Europe, while immersing herself in new



COURTESY PHOTO

Fehr Gillett has a passion for the environment. She received support from Marblehead Dollars for Scholars.

cultures. In a full-time capacity last

summer and a part-time capacity during her senior year at college, she interned at Boston-based PowerOptions, Inc. as an energy data analyst.

According to its website, the company's mission is to empower nonprofits and the public sector with solutions to reduce the cost, carbon and complexity of energy so they can focus resources on their own communities and constituents.

"My internship taught me skills that will be impactful for my career, and it opened the door to the clean energy world," said Gillett. She now works for the company as a junior alternative fuels analyst, where she supports their solar and electric vehicle charging programs.

In the future, Gillett hopes to attend law school and study environmental law after which

she wants to return to the clean energy industry to continue combating climate change.

To help pay for her education, Gillett held summer jobs at the Corinthian Yacht Club, Recreation & Parks camps and at PowerOptions, Inc., along with occasional babysitting.

Her Marblehead Dollars for Scholars scholarship helped defray the high cost of tuition, room and board and she is grateful to the nonprofit organization and its donors for helping her reach her educational goal.

"The Marblehead community is always supportive of the students it sends on to the next chapter of their lives," Gillett said.

Nancy Marrs is a member of the Marblehead Dollars for Scholars Board of Directors.