

ANA ZIVANOVIC-NENADOVIC, interviewed by Glenn Blackburn on May 23, 2014. Ana has been a Program and Policy Analyst with the Federation since 2011. Her work supports much of the policy work of the Federation, and she is the Program manager for the Coastal Advocacy Institute, a summer internship program.

The Federation's website says that the Coastal Advocacy Institute provides opportunities to learn valuable skills in grassroots organizing, media relations, coastal policy, habitat restoration, environmental education and a wide range of other fields necessary for successful non-profit environmental advocacy, such as public relations, planning, event planning, and volunteer organizing. Ana said that the general goal is to educate young people on coastal issues. There are four major components of the Institute: 1.) hands-on practical work in restoration projects; 2.) individual policy research projects; 3.) seminars with guest speakers; 4.) public involvement with volunteers and Federation staff and in public meetings. (But, Ana stressed, the students are not commissioned to speak for the Federation.)

Ana noted that the seminars with guest speakers are particularly valuable. They have about 15 speakers with different areas of expertise over the course of a summer. So, the students can ask questions about different areas of environmental work.

Ana said that the students admitted to the Institute have already made some commitment to a career in environmental or coastal protection. In 2014, the Federation had about 30-35 applicants for admission, with about 13-20 being Duke students and about 15 non-Duke students. There is a lot of interest in the program. The students usually go on to environmental protection jobs after they leave the Institute. Most of them have degrees in environmental studies before they come to the Federation and have already committed to environmental work as a career.

The students appreciate the diversity in the program, according to Ana, for they work in the office, in the fields, with volunteers, and with staff. The daily/weekly schedule for the Institute is very organized and structured, so the students get a lot of different experiences. And, Ana said they have meaningful projects to do. They do a lot of the hard work that the staff doesn't have time to do.

The origins of the Institute actually go back about 20 years, according to Ana, with a few Duke students having summer internships with the Federation through the Stanback internship program. It was Todd's idea to start a more organized, larger Institute in 2011, and it is now open to students from anywhere. There have been 28 students in the Institute from 2011 to 2014. Ana said that she doesn't know of any other environmental organizations that operate similar institutes.

As for her work as a policy analyst, Ana said that she assists the Executive Director to evaluate and devise policies, programs, and guidance to achieve the Federation's goals and benchmarks. She conducts descriptive and prescriptive policy analyses that advance the Federation's coastal conservation mission. She researches and analyzes the existing and proposed local, state, and federal coastal management policy practices and develops appropriate policy responses or alternatives for internal

discussion. She also monitors all the regulatory issues, the rule changes on the state level, and all the activities of the CRC. She does a lot of the research needed by Todd and others on the staff and composes the original drafts of letters/comments for the Federation position on important topics. She noted that groins are a big issue now, and she thinks that inlet management may become a more prominent issue.