



The Advanced Inquiry Program Honors Recent Graduates and Looks Ahead to the Future

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In 2013, San Diego Zoo Global (SDZG) expanded its horizons as a conservation leader to offer the Advanced Inquiry Program (AIP), a master's degree program that is co-delivered using a hybrid online/in-person format with Miami University's Project Dragonfly. AIP is nationally recognized and growing—the San Diego Zoo is one of eight zoo partners with Project Dragonfly, and five additional zoo and aquarium partners are set to join the national team in 2017. We are proud to announce that we have 75 students currently enrolled, and our first class of 21 students graduated in December 2015!



AIP has proven to be an exciting endeavor for SDZG because it perfectly aligns with our institutional goals. It unites people from around the San Diego area who share an interest in conservation and a drive to become active members of local and global conservation communities. Students develop networks with staff and other locally based classmates, and connect with the national web-based Project Dragonfly community. From the moment they begin the program, students engage in hands-on, inquiry-based activities that empower them to ask the right questions and seek answers, strengthen their understanding of current and future conservation issues, and enact plans to lead the fight against extinction by promoting positive social and ecological change within their broader communities. With their help, we are successfully extending and deepening our reach to ignite a passion for nature in others. The following stories of our recent 2015 alumni exemplify these qualities and demonstrate the AIP flexibility that allows students to tailor the graduate program to fit their background, strengths, and personal goals.

