



Department of Physics and Astronomy
SPRING 2024 Colloquium Series

“Oh, the Places You’ll Go! From Particle Physics and Lasers to Biophysics and Education Research (and Everything in Between)!”

Eliza J. Morris

Sac State Physics, Sac State Class of 2005

Dr. Morris always loved science. Growing up, her “dream profession” of archaeologist/bioengineer was inspired by Indiana Jones (though with less fighting). In 2002, she started as a physics major at Sac State because it was the friendliest, most welcoming department. She grew to love physics while conducting research with lasers at NIST, modeling how magnets move through pipes, and developing Monte Carlo simulations at CERN. But most of all, she began to see herself as a physicist while hiking up snow covered mountains with her professors, who would ask questions like, “why do the holes from your snowshoeing poles look blue?” That connection to the environment that comes with growing up in California never left her when she moved to the east coast to study applied physics at Harvard. During her PhD, she modeled energy technology deployment and investigated the hydrodynamics of the Colorado River, in addition to her PhD work in biophysics. After graduating, she completed two postdoctoral research positions and joined Aspen Environmental Group as a Senior Associate in Energy Economics. In 2018, Dr. Morris joined the Sac State Physics Department as Assistant Professor. Since then, she has worked to expand the biophysics program at Sac State while developing environmental research projects related to the nearby American River and launching new research to better understand why we ask those questions, and how we all figure out the answers. In this talk she will walk through her academic journey, including the many ways a physics degree empowers you to pursue varied and sometimes surprising careers, and will ask participants to reflect on their own journeys.

Thursday, April 25, 2024
4:00 - 5:20PM

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Open & Free to all students, faculty and public