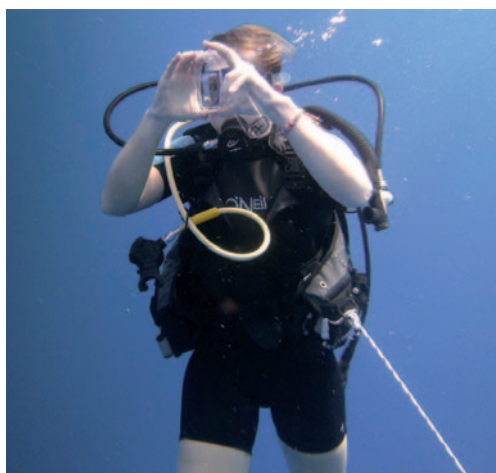


Where are they now?

Kate Holland: Winner of the 2009 ANU Prize for Best Results in Geophysics

I completed a degree in Global and Environmental Science (with Honours) in 2011. My degree programme allowed me to benefit from the inter-disciplinary nature of Earth science throughout. I pursued multiple scientific disciplines (physics, chemistry, biology and maths), repurposing them to solve problems about Earth, using geochemistry, and geophysics – for which I won a prize in 2009. When it came to my Honours year, I chose a project that combined chemistry and biology to study how foraminifera, a type of plankton, record the temperature and salinity of the oceans in which they live. The composition of their shells (mostly CaCO_3) adjusts in response to changes in ocean conditions. Foraminifera are an important source of information for climate scientists who wish to know how the temperature of our oceans has varied in the past. That knowledge will allow us to make predictions about our future oceans. First, however, the foraminifera needed to be collected and re-homed in the lab. I did this over two summers, whilst SCUBA diving, in the oceans off California and Puerto Rico – a fantastic time! I enjoyed my honours year so much, and worked with so many inspiring scientists, that I chose to undertake a PhD continuing the research. This year I will complete my PhD and plan to continue investigating our oceans, now as a fully-fledged scientist.

Kate Holland
kate.holland@anu.edu.au



Collecting a foraminifer in the Atlantic ocean off Puerto Rico, April 2014. Photo supplied by Bärbel Hönisch.

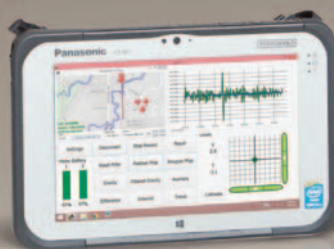
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