

ROB'N LAURELLI



Rob'n Laurelli is a Philadelphia native majoring in Environmental Studies (with a concentration in Environmental Policy) and also studying Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies. She is interested in analyzing how race, class, gender, and other demographic components factor into environmental health, environmental justice, and the creation and implementation of environmental policies. For most of her time at Penn, Rob'n was a member of Keynotes A Cappella where she was an alto who also arranged music for the group. Rob'n has also played the violin for Penn Baroque and for the pit orchestra in Penn Singers. She is currently a board member (5B Liaison) for Penn Initiative for Minority Mental Health (PIMMH), and has also been on the board for SOUL (Students Organizing for Unity and Liberation). Rob'n studied abroad in London at Queen Mary University of London, and she hopes to return to the city she fell madly in love with in the near future. Rob'n also hopes to be able to work in the environmental justice field and make a positive impact on others' lives.

CAPSTONE PROJECT

THE URBAN ASTHMA EPIDEMIC IN PHILADELPHIA

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jane Dmochowski, School of Arts & Sciences, Earth and Environmental Science

This capstone project targets the urban asthma epidemic in Philadelphia. The research question at-hand is, “Who has the hardest time accessing adequate healthcare/asthma treatment, and how can those resources be made more accessible (physically, economically, etc.) to those groups of people?” The study examines various demographic factors such as race, class and gender, and how those influence who is most negatively affected by asthma. The research also explores the implications of current health policy. Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping is used to show the physical accessibility of non-healthcare-based asthma treatment resources, and other data are used to study economic accessibility of resources. In conclusion, the study demonstrates there should be more asthma resources physically accessible to people in the areas of Philadelphia who are most negatively affected by the urban asthma epidemic, since other sources of treatment are geographically and financially inaccessible to them.