



WINGS WorldQuest Awards Flag Carrier Grant to Ulyana Horodyskyj

Geologist's Expedition to Denali Will Study Impact of Pollution and Dust

New York, NY (January 8, 2018) — WINGS WorldQuest today announced that it has bestowed a Flag Carrier grant to Colorado-based scientist, Ulyana Horodyskyj, PhD. Horodyskyj will depart in May 2018 and will study the impact of pollution and dust on snow and ice melt on the Alaskan mountain, Denali, the highest peak in North America. The expedition, which is expected to last approximately one month, will be focused on the effect of these contaminants on alpine glaciers.

Due to their dark color, these contaminants absorb more of the sun's energy, making the surface less reflective than it should be and leading to accelerated melting. Remote sensing data from orbit are not effective at detecting black carbon on the ground, which is driving the need for live expedition, observation and study on the physically challenging peak.

About Ulyana Horodyskyj

Horodyskyj completed her PhD in geological sciences at the University of Colorado Boulder in 2015. Her research, at that time, focused on the changing glaciers in the Himalaya, specifically the growth and evolution of glacial lakes. Horodyskyj's dissertation included studying impacts of black carbon (soot) and dust on the melting of snow and ice. Following her PhD, Horodyskyj undertook a post doctorate project at the National Snow and Ice Data Center (Boulder, CO), expanding on her dissertation's last chapter by studying black carbon in the Arctic (Baffin Island). Her work on snow and ice continues, these days in the capacity of citizen science – Horodyskyj leads expeditions around the world, teaching ordinary people how to conduct field work in extreme locations. Over the last 2 years, she has led expeditions and collected data from glaciers in Nepal (up to 20,000 ft.); snow on Aconcagua (highest peak in South America); snow on Ojos del Salado (world's highest active volcano); the Penny Ice Cap on Baffin Island (Canadian Arctic); glaciers in Iceland; glaciers on Mexican volcanoes; and a summit glacier on Kilimanjaro (the highest peak in Africa).

About WINGS WorldQuest's Flag Carrier Program

WINGS WorldQuest Flag Carriers are women leading original field research or documentation that focuses on investigating questions about the nature of our world and advancing conservation

efforts on land, air and water through science and advocacy.

As part of their expeditions, all accepted Flag Carriers plan to write reports, make films, or otherwise formally share information about the findings and discoveries with the scientific community and the public. WINGS WorldQuest Flag Carriers are not associated with tourist trips or paying participants on tours.

WINGS Flag Carriers must submit a formal report, complete with high-resolution images, to WINGS so that the expedition findings can be shared with the greater public. These reports are posted on the WINGS website and published elsewhere as appropriate.

Since 2005, more than 50 women have flown the WINGS WorldQuest flag during expeditions across over 35 countries and all of the world's continents as they pursue groundbreaking discoveries.

The WINGS WorldQuest flag is recognized as a symbol of excellence in discovery and knowledge, and certifies the significance of its carrier's endeavor.

About WINGS WorldQuest™

WINGS WorldQuest™ is a registered nonprofit organization founded in 2003 to recognize and support extraordinary women in science and exploration. It is the only organization of its kind, awarding unrestricted funding to women in scientific field endeavors. WINGS' support knows no boundaries—women of all races, nationalities, ages, and cultures who show initiative, passion, and promise toward future scientific advancement have been granted funds that are often critical to seeing their ambitious ideas through. In return, they have become part of the WINGS community, and strengthen the organization's mission to inspire the next generation of intrepid explorers and global problem-solvers through various outreach programs. For more information, visit www.wingsworldquest.org.

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