

May 27th, 2025

CCUBC Executive

Dear CCUBC Awards Committee;

We are writing to nominate Dr. Sarah Hewitt for the CCUBC Science Promotion Prize for 2025.

Sarah has spent 15 years telling science stories through her work as an Adventure Scientist. She travels the globe, working with research scientists in the field, observing and documenting their successes and failures, and getting the untold stories behind the data. Through her photography and writing she amplifies the voices of researchers, promoting biological science to the public, and offering a peek behind the scientific curtain. Sarah's communication efforts bring life to the scientific work and promotes science not as a faceless fact generating process, but one conducted by dedicated people that love their work.

Sarah's science adventures have led to 33 print stories and 9 multimedia videos on 13 different platforms, including *BBC Earth*, *BBC Travel*, *Discover Magazine*, *Scientific American*, and *Canadian Geographic*. Some of her publications, with links, are listed at the end of this nomination letter. In addition, Sarah frequently showcases her nature-themed and science-focused photography in impactful public art venues, such as the upcoming [Lumen](#) art show in Calgary on May 29, 2025.

As a full-time professor in the Department of Biology at Mount Royal University, Sarah has taken her interest in promoting science into the classroom. There she is helping students harness their own creativity as they develop science stories that interest them. She encourages them to think about science as a process done by people, and more than the facts in their textbooks. To achieve this, she has created several assignments for students to communicate complex scientific work to the public through videos or podcasts, and most recently magazines as part of a capstone

course. It is through assignments like these that Sarah is training the next generation to think about science promotion and how to communicate science to the public. An example of Sarah's innovative approach to blending science communication and teaching is the end-of-semester capstone showcase, "Circus of Science", held at a downtown Calgary pub. The "Circus of Science" draws a robust crowd of students and faculty from across the university (in addition to family and friends) and involves students in several capstone courses presenting their final projects in engaging audio-visual format amidst live music and art vendors. The links below provide examples of some of the student-generated magazines.

[Science Scope](#)

[Wonders of the Human Body](#)

[Ecological Communities](#)

[Nature of Elements](#)

It is because of her enthusiastic dedication to teaching, as exemplified above, that Sarah was awarded the prestigious 3M National Teaching Fellowship in 2023.

Sarah also shares her science communication expertise within the Department of Biology and the Faculty of Science and Technology at MRU. Until 2021, Sarah produced an online (and occasionally print) magazine, BioBeat, highlighting research, scholarship, and teaching innovation in the Department of Biology. In 2025, Sarah launched a digital magazine, Science Sphere, to showcase student research and alumni successes in the Faculty of Science and Technology.

Sarah has also contributed to the promotion of science by helping graduate students and professors develop their science communication skills. She has given over 30 presentations and workshops locally, nationally, and internationally about teaching techniques, infusing science communication into the classroom, and developing communication skills.

Collectively, Sarah's career as an Adventure Scientist and telling the stories of researchers, the promotion of science communication in the classroom, and the training of the next generation of scientists in the skills of science communication makes her an excellent candidate for the CCUBC Science Promotion Prize.

Sincerely,



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Dr. Hewitt's Science Communication Publications:

1. 2025 In the Sky and on the Ground. *Colgate Scene magazine* (Spring 2025). New York State, USA. In print. Retrieved from <https://news.colgate.edu/magazine/2025/05/21/in-the-sky-and-on-the-ground-insights-from-the-arctic/>
2. 2024 SPARK Magazine. 2023 3M National Teaching Fellows Cohort. Editor and contributor. Retrieved from <https://www.stlhe.ca/spark/>
3. 2023 A new spark in wildfire investigation. *Canadian Geographic*. May/June edition. Retrieved from <https://canadiangeographic.ca/articles/a-new-spark-in-wildfire-investigation/>
4. 2023 Better design with biomimicry. *Summit Magazine*. In print. Retrieved from <https://www.mtroyal.ca/Summit/every-day-science-spr-sum-23.htm>
5. 2021 What can birds tell us about forest fire recovery? *Canadian Geographic*. Retrieved from <https://www.canadiangeographic.ca/article/what-can-birds-tell-us-about-forest-fire-recovery>
6. 2021 Mountain Highs. *University of North Texas Health Science Centre Magazine*. Retrieved from <https://www.unthsc.edu/newsroom/story/mountain-highs/>
7. 2019 True tales of hypoxia. Retrieved from <https://www.mtroyal.ca/AboutMountRoyal/MediaRoom/Newsroom/true-tales-of-hypoxia.htm>
8. 2019 The sacred forests of northern Ethiopia. *BBC Travel*. Retrieved from <http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20190520-the-sacred-forests-of-northern-ethiopia>.

9. 2018 How citizen scientists solved a migration mystery. *Canadian Geographic* (March/April 2018 Print Edition ed.). Retrieved from <https://www.canadiangeographic.ca/article/how-citizen-scientists-solved-migration-mystery>
10. 2017 Ontario's forgotten ghost town. *BBC Travel*. Retrieved from <http://www.bbc.com/travel/gallery/20171019-ontarios-forgotten-ghost-town>
11. 2017 Therapy drones are helping injured falcons fly again. *Vice - Motherboard*. Retrieved from https://motherboard.vice.com/en_us/article/3kkpxy/therapy-drones-are-helping-injured-falcons-fly-again
12. 2017 Get out your galoshes, citizen scientists look to the wetlands and the skies. *Swerve - Calgary Herald*. Retrieved from <http://calgaryherald.com/life/swerve/get-out-your-galoshes-citizen-scientists-look-to-the-wetlands-and-to-the-skies>
13. 2017 Scientists are debating whether animals have a right to privacy. *Vice - Motherboard*. Retrieved from https://motherboard.vice.com/en_us/article/43ydkb/animals-privacy-tracking-data-science-journals-open-access-banff-national-park
14. 2017 The tiny island of 200000 couples. *BBC Travel*. Retrieved from <http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20170509-the-tiny-island-of-200000-couples>
15. 2017 I farmed seaweed in Belize to learn why it's the food of the future. *Vice - Motherboard*. Retrieved from https://motherboard.vice.com/en_us/article/kbvamx/i-farmed-seaweed-in-belize-to-learn-why-its-the-food-of-the-future
16. 2017 Bird Man. *Swerve Magazine - Calgary Herald*. Retrieved from https://motherboard.vice.com/en_us/article/43ydkb/animals-privacy-tracking-data-science-journals-open-access-banff-national-park
17. 2017 I travelled to the Arctic to plunge a probe into the thawing permafrost. *Vice - Motherboard*. Retrieved from https://motherboard.vice.com/en_us/article/gve884/i-travelled-to-the-arctic-to-plunge-a-probe-into-the-melting-permafrost
18. 2017 The island of lost explorers. *BBC Travel*. Retrieved from <http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20170223-the-island-of-lost-explorers>
19. 2017 How to decide which extinct species we should resurrect. *BBC Earth*. Retrieved from <http://www.bbc.com/earth/story/20170127-how-to-decide-which-extinct-species-we-should-resurrect?ocid=fbert>
20. 2017 How insects like bumblebees do so much with tiny brains. *BBC Earth*. Retrieved from <http://www.bbc.com/earth/story/20170123-how-insects-like-bumblebees-do-so-much-with-tiny-brains>
21. 2016 Up in the Air. *Discover Magazine*. Retrieved from <https://www.discovermagazine.com/planet-earth/revelations-in-the-rainforest-canopy>
22. 2016 The monkeys and apes the brave hurricanes and wildfires. *BBC Earth*. Retrieved from <http://www.bbc.com/earth/story/20160819-the-monkeys-and-apes-that-brave-hurricanes-and-wildfires>
23. 2016 The surprising ways butterflies sense their enemies. *BBC Earth*. Retrieved from <http://www.bbc.com/earth/story/20160217-the-unexpected-ways-butterflies-hear#:~:text=So%20if%20butterflies%20are%20already,the%20underside%20of%20their%20wings>

24. 2016 Team VIPER in the Arctic. *Colgate Scene magazine* (Winter 2016). New York State, USA. Retrieved from <https://news.colgate.edu/scene/2016/02/michael-loranty-arctic-research.html>
25. 2015 If it has to, a horned lizard can shoot blood from its eyes. BBC Earth. 2015 - Hewitt S. (2015). <http://www.bbc.com/earth/story/20151105-if-it-has-to-a-horned-lizard-can-shoot-blood-from-its-eyes>
26. 2015 High-flying ducks. *The Scientist* (Vol. 29(7)). USA. Retrieved from <https://www.the-scientist.com/notebook/high-flying-ducks-35223>
27. 2015 Extreme Measures. *UBC Trek Magazine*. Vancouver, Canada. Retrieved from <https://trekmagazine.alumni.ubc.ca/2015/february-2015/features/extreme-measures>
28. 2015 A lab in the canopy. *Colgate Scene* (Vol. Winter 2015). New York, USA. Retrieved from <https://news.colgate.edu/scene/2015/02/a-lab-in-the-canopy-cat-cardelus.html>
29. 2014 Banff's Aurora Chasers. *Explore* (Vol. Fall 2014 pp. 21). Retrieved from https://www.explore-mag.com/Banffs_Aurora_Chasers
30. 2014 Chasing the geomagnetic storm for a nighttime light experience like no other. *Scientific American*. Retrieved from <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/chasing-the-geomagnetic-storm-for-a-nighttime-light-experience-like-no-other/>
31. 2013 Birds of the Scott Islands. *Canadian Geographic*. Retrieved from <https://www.canadiangeographic.ca/article/birds-scott-islands>
32. 2012 Fire storm: Field researchers and their subjects endure nature's tempestuous power. *Scientific American*. Retrieved from <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/fire-storm-researchers-subjects-endure-nature/>
33. 2012 After the Hurricanes. *U Magazine* (Vol. Winter 2012 pp. 10 - 11). Calgary.

Editor

Science Sphere. Digital magazine for the Faculty of Science and Technology at MRU. Prototype Edition (Winter 2025). Retrieved from:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAGY2dE4EHO/S6vEnLJQN9WvGsreY1dGzA/view?utm_content=DAGY2dE4EHO&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniquelinks&utlId=a50a858ec7

Videos and multimedia productions:

2021 In conversation with Dr. Caroline Rickards - Conducting high altitude research in the California Sierras. *University of North Texas Health Science Center Magazine online*. Retrieved from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4Aie9BtdDs&feature=emb_logo

2019 Words of wisdom from MRU biology students about getting involved with research. Multimedia story with BioBeat newsletter. Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ArGxQzifkig&t=29s>

2019 Mount Royal University students head to altitude for some research experience. Retrieved from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1XMV_pHs-7U&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1C67TiFBCFTd6WRcJrN5LG9hXjUoqGqUGjPF5q6Z4hEZvuhRSu8gw5Ng

2017 Meet Hopedale's newest archeologists. Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GN-vlbHLv8Y>

2017 Releasing a gyrfalcon back to the wild. *Vice - Motherboard*. Retrieved from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7kkiwfqo54&feature=emb_logo

2016 A chat with Mike Loranty - Video. *Colgate Scene Magazine online*. Retrieved from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HdRqFm0zWbc&feature=emb_logo

2015 In conversation with Catherine Cardelus - Video. *Colgate Scene Magazine online*. Retrieved from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uli7euLe07E&feature=emb_logo

2010 Learn Neuroscience - NeuroFlash: Stroke. - Podcast

2010 Learn Neuroscience - NeuroPrimer: Stroke. - Podcast