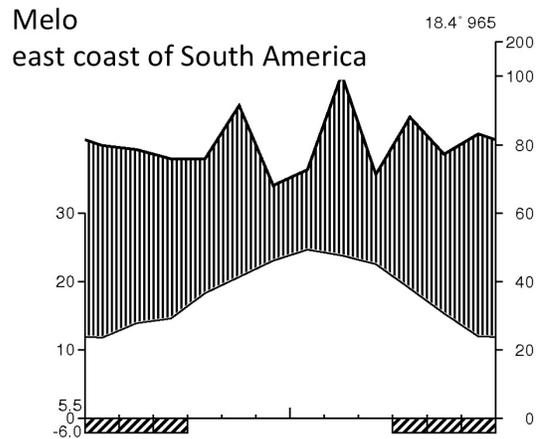
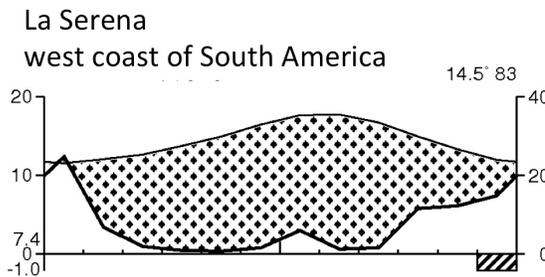
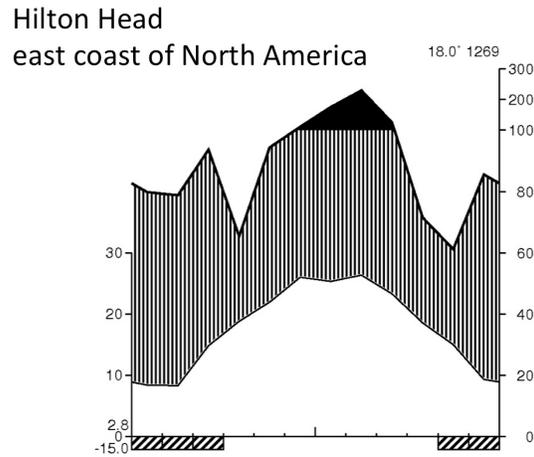
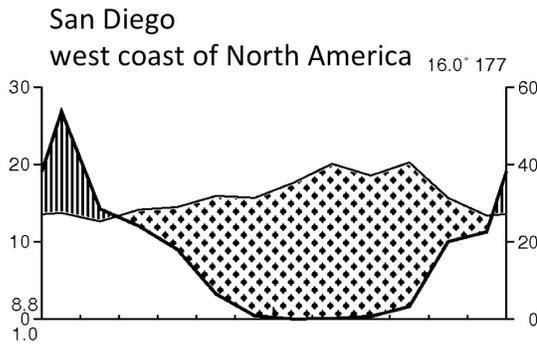
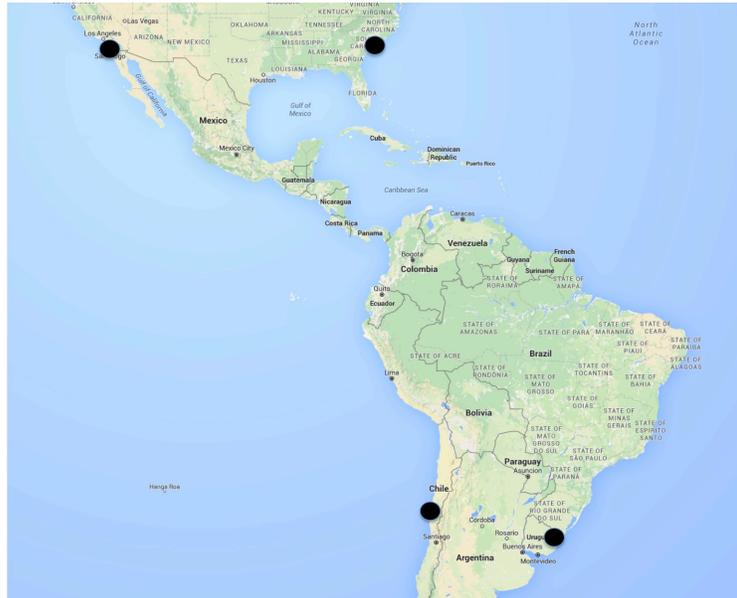


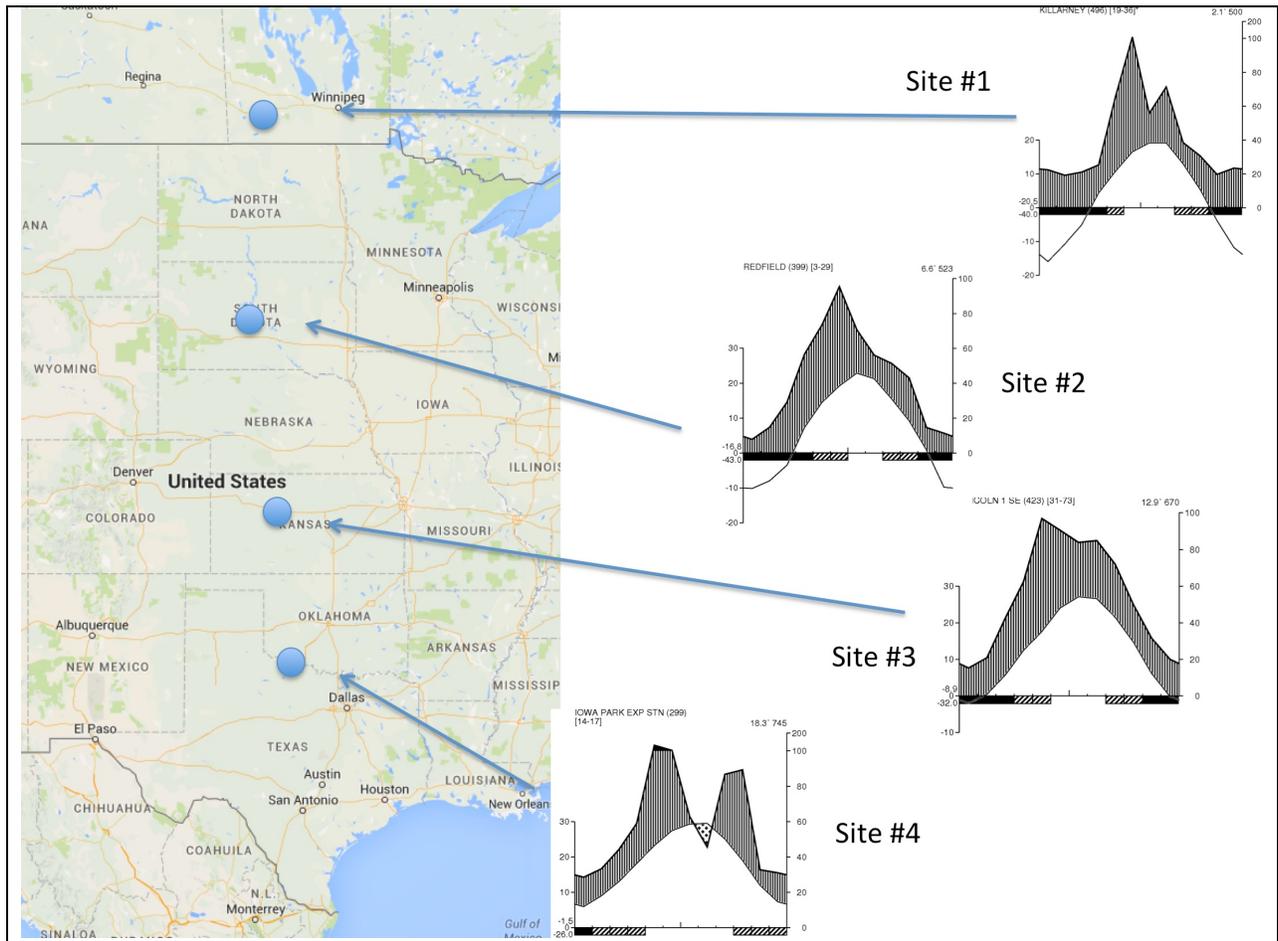
Page 23 from my notebook

Last summer before COVID-19 became a pandemic, I had the best of vacations, using up all of the airline miles that I had accumulated. I decided to call it the “4-30” vacation, because I visited four different cities in North America and South America. Each of these cities was coastal and each was located at 30° from the equator. To the right is a map of the four cities I visited. Below are four climate diagrams from each of the cities I visited on the 4-30 trip.



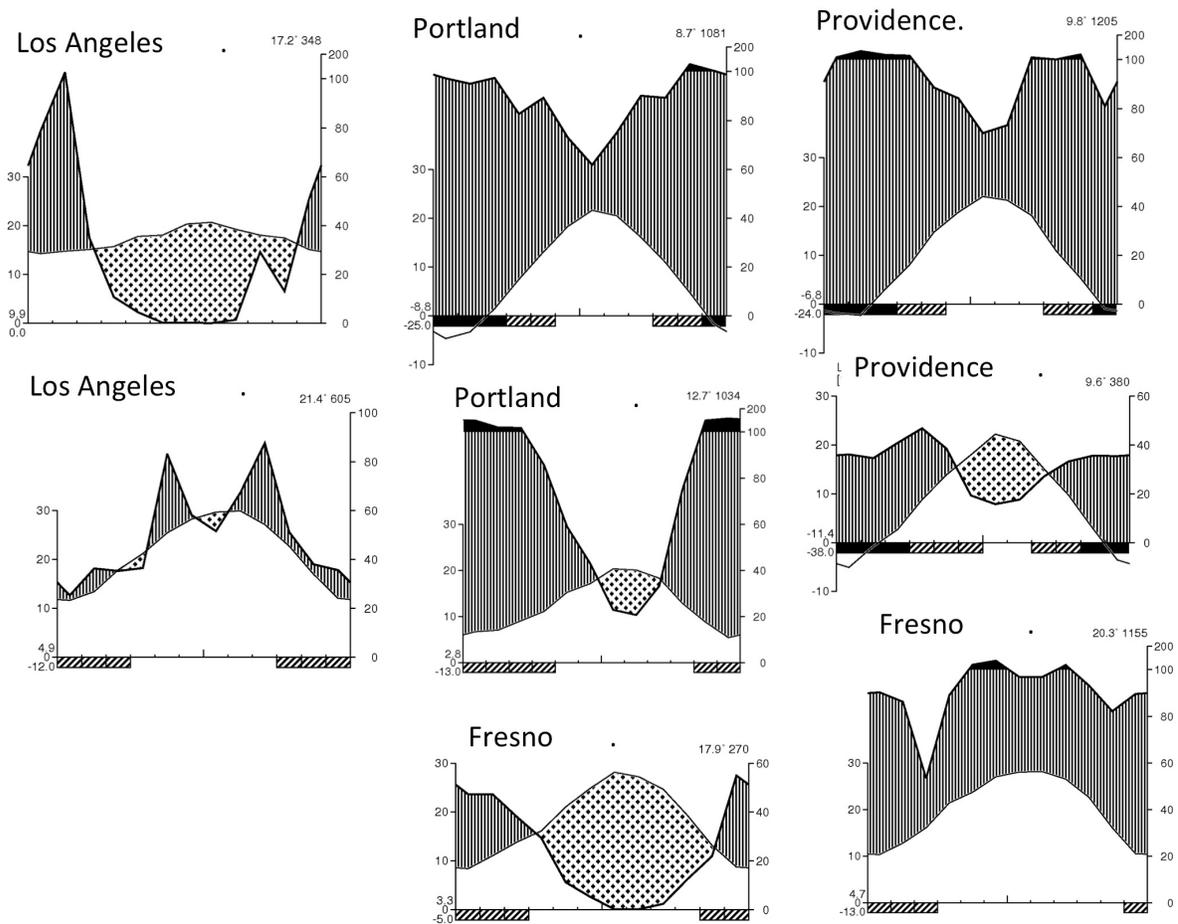
Page 77 from my notebook

On a road trip from Galveston, Texas to Regina, Saskatchewan, I stopped off at four different locations as shown below. The scenery at each location was gorgeous (at least gorgeous to a botanist). I took very careful notes about the biomes and species present along this road trip. Several features absolutely stood out and reiterated what I had heard Professor Ehleringer lecture on years ago. Perhaps the most surprising observation I made along this gradient is that there were big changes in the species present at northern-most versus southern-most locations. As I had lots of time on my hands during this trip, I took time to do both leaf anatomy and root drawings of each of the common species along this transect.



Page 167 from my notebook

I love road trips and taking time to see plants and biomes along the way. Crossing back and forth across the United States is a real treat for me, especially when I collect data along the way. Over the past three summers, I have come across four pairs of cities in which each city shares the same name. Wow. What a coincidence, but the coincidence stopped there. My notes, shown on page 30, details these differences among paired-name cities. Below are the climate diagrams for these paired cities. Interestingly, while the cities shared a common name, that was not the case with the vegetation in the proximity of paired cities.



Page 417 from my notebook

Over the past 3-4 years, we have had lively discussions whenever family members settle in for our traditional Thanksgiving Dinner. I have family members who come from many parts of the United States. They certainly have very distinct and wide-ranging opinions, which they are glad to share (or should I say SHOUT) while eating dinner before then moving to the living room to continue the conversation. Fortunately, we have not yet had a knock-down fight as I have heard occurred in some families where contrasting opinions exist. I must note, however, that my Uncle Bill has now removed his sister (my Aunt Belle) from his Christmas mailing list! As a scientist, I have always taken the position that you are entitled to your own beliefs, but not to your own facts.

This last Thanksgiving, the topics were “climate changes in the arctic tundra” and “ecological changes in the Amazon Basin”. After the discussion had raged for two hours, I shared some of the facts that I have learned (including those I learned while taking BIOL 5460) and read in peer-reviewed scientific articles on these topics.

Fact 1

Fact 2

Fact 3

Fact 4

Fact 5

Fact 6

Fact 7