

Environmental Conservation Career Workshop



Environmental Conservation Career Workshop



Department of Environmental Conservation

University of Massachusetts Amherst

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Environmental Conservation Career Workshop Materials

Graduate students and Faculty have shared their strategies to successfully land a career in environmental conservation and related fields. Follow these links to see their strategies:

- [Additional Job Opportunities](#)
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Last updated May 20, 2011 by Roxann Cormier

eco.umass.edu

Think of your career as a snowball....

Think of your career as a snowball....



Right now you might be here

Think of your career as a snowball....



You're building toward this!
(when you get to be old like me...)



Think of your career as a snowball....



This might be better a better image
– hopefully you're feeling this way
near the end of your career!



Think of your career as a snowball....



I like this analogy because like a snowball being built and pushed downhill, you gain **momentum**...

Opportunities create more opportunities

-- if you do them right!

How do you start that snowball???



How do you build that snowball?

- Push yourself

How do you build that snowball?

- Push yourself
- Be creative

How do you build that snowball?

- Push yourself
- Be creative
- Go beyond the standard course requirements

How do you build that snowball?

- Push yourself
- Be creative
- Go beyond the standard course requirements

“Knock the socks off your Prof!”

Charlie Schweik, March 29, 2012

How do you build that snowball?

- Push yourself
- Be creative
- Go beyond the standard course requirements
- Build and demonstrate passion for something

How do you build that snowball?

- Push yourself
- Be creative
- Go beyond the standard course requirements
- Build and demonstrate passion for something
- Be motivated

How do you build that snowball?

- Push yourself
- Be creative
- Go beyond the standard course requirements
- Build and demonstrate passion for something
- Be motivated
- Be serious

How do you build that snowball?

- Push yourself
- Be creative
- Go beyond the standard course requirements
- Build and demonstrate passion for something
- Be motivated
- Be serious (that doesn't mean you can't have humor)

How do you build that snowball?

- Push yourself
- Be creative
- Go beyond the standard course requirements
- Build and demonstrate passion for something
- Be motivated
- Be serious
- Be professional

How do you build that snowball?

- Push yourself
- Be creative
- Go beyond the standard course requirements
- Build and demonstrate passion for something
- Be motivated
- Be serious
- Be professional
- Show self-initiative

How do you build that snowball?

- Push yourself
- Be creative
- Go beyond the standard course requirements
- Build and demonstrate passion for something
- Be motivated
- Be serious
- Be professional
- Show self-initiative
- Work hard

How do you build that snowball?

- Push yourself
- Be creative
- Go beyond the standard course requirements
- Build and demonstrate passion for something
- Be motivated
- Be serious
- Be professional
- Show self-initiative
- Work hard
- Produce the best work you can, especially in areas that you care about

How do you build that snowball?

- Push yourself
- Be creative
- Go beyond the standard course requirements
- Build and demonstrate passion for something
- Be motivated
- Be serious
- Be professional
- Show self-initiative
- Work hard
- Produce the best work you can, especially in areas that you care about
- Make opportunities happen...

How do you build that snowball?

- Push yourself
- Be creative
- Go beyond the standard course requirements
- Build and demonstrate passion for something
- Be motivated
- Be serious
- Be professional
- Show self-initiative
- Work hard
- Produce the best work you can, especially in areas that you care about
- Make opportunities happen...
- Do the above in your own “style”

How do you build that snowball?

- Push yourself
 - Be creative
 - Go beyond the standard course requirements
 - Build and demonstrate passion for something
 - Be motivated
 - Be serious
 - Be professional
 - Show self-initiative
 - Work hard
 - Produce the best work you can, especially in areas that you care about
 - Make opportunities happen...
 - Do the above in your own “style”
- These are attributes that employers look for....

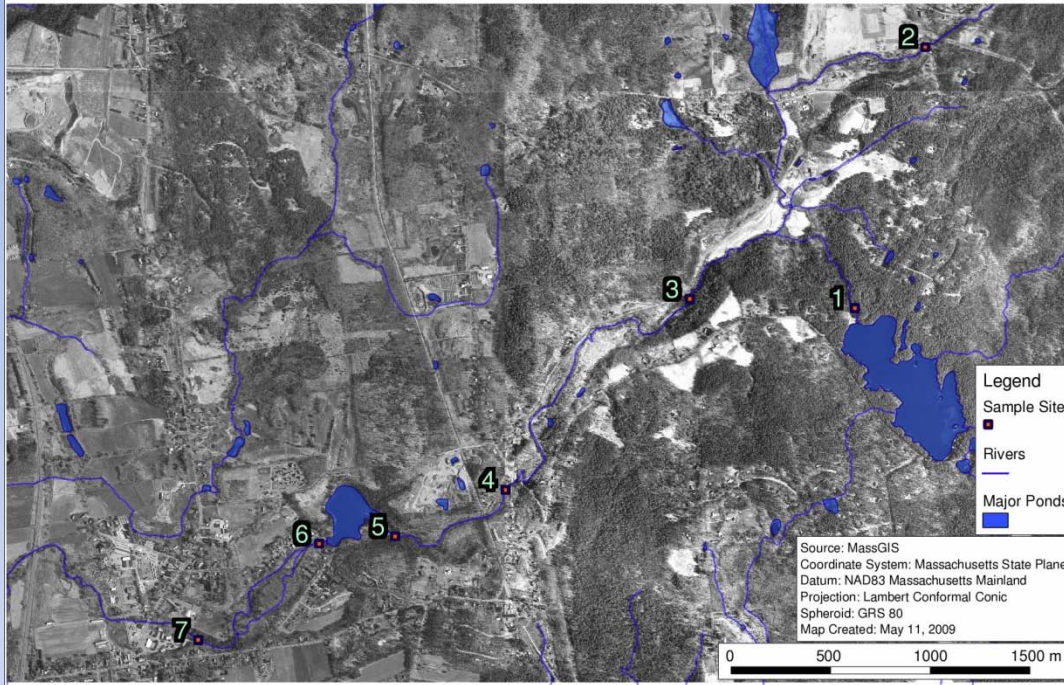
How do you build that snowball?

Examples of
“Pushing yourself”
in the classroom

Student proposed research: Spatial Inventory of Insects in a River

Sample Locations:

Overlaid on Orthophotos



Site ID: 3 Date: 5/11/09 Time: 3:10 - 4:00
Stream Name: Cushman Brook Weather: Sunny 67°

Insect Group:	Abundance:
Mayfly Larva	III
Stonefly Larva	0
Caddisfly Larva	0
Dragonfly Larva	0
Midges	II
Worms	III
Crayfish	N
Other	Dobsonfly 1

Temperature: 57°
Velocity (10ft float): 9.2 sec
Bottom Composition: Gravel, silt

Site Description:

- 10' wide
- sample taken in first riffles after slower section of river
- 1.5' deep

Site ID: 4 Date: 5/11/09 Time: 4:15 - 5:00
Stream Name: Cushman Brook Weather: Sunny 65°

Insect Group:	Abundance:
Mayfly Larva	III, IIII, IIII
Stonefly Larva	III, IIII
Caddisfly Larva	III, IIII
Dragonfly Larva	0
Midges	III, I
Worms	0
Crayfish	0
Other	Attractilines IIII

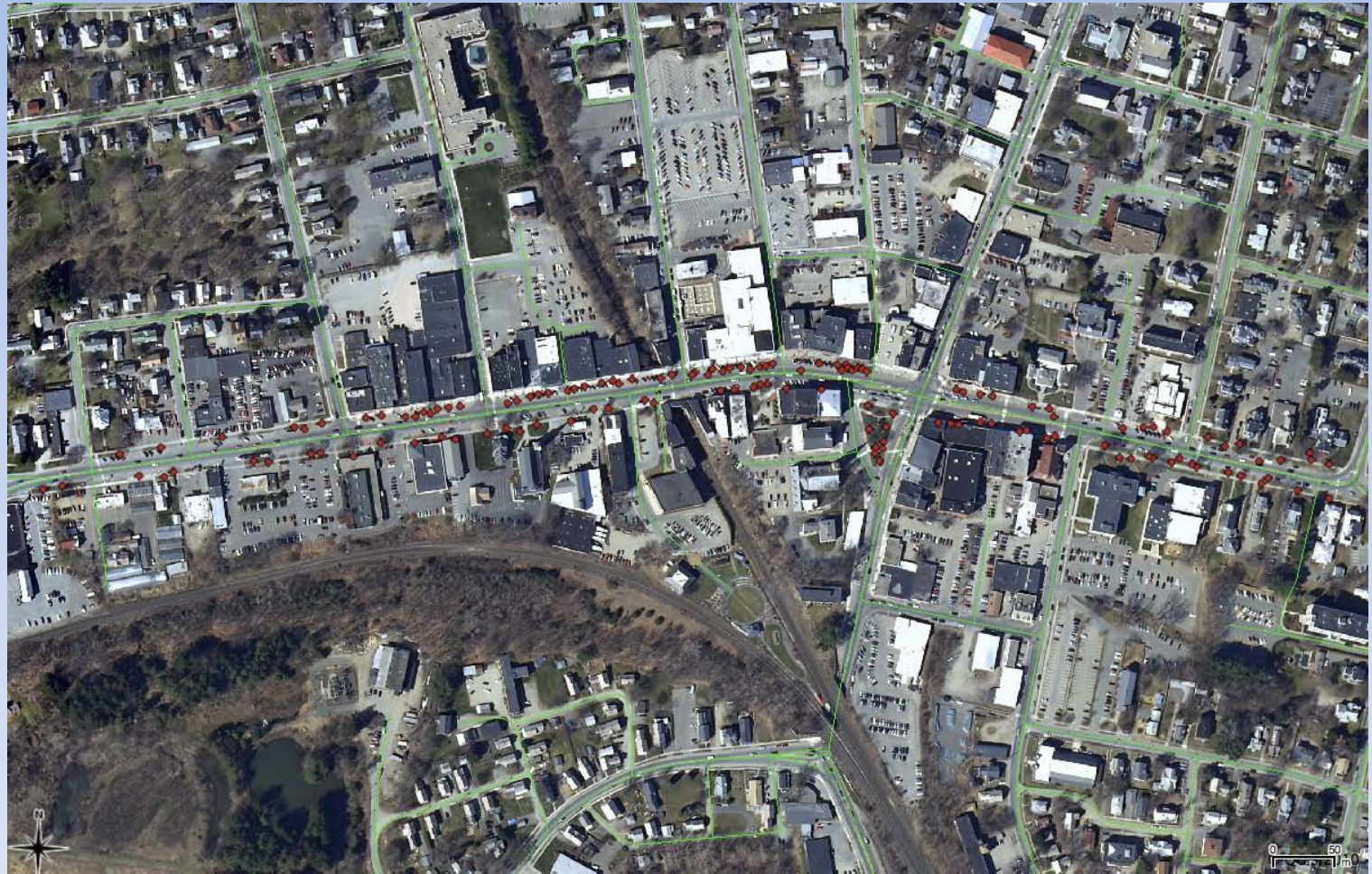
Temperature: 57°
Velocity (10ft float): 4 sec
Bottom Composition: Cobble, Gravel

Site Description:

- 10' wide
- lots of rapids flowing over bedrock
- sample taken in big pool near bottom of rapids
- 1.5' deep



Simulating public or private sector work: Tree Inventory in Greenfield



Producing something helpful for an outside connection...

Fire Ponds in Erving State Forest



Taking your own initiative and producing something you can brag about...

[Caldwell forest map](#)

Taking your own initiative and producing something you can brag about...

Last fall GIS undergraduate – he tried to model water flow using GIS on the Amherst campus...

- Impervious surface layer
- Utilized his knowledge from Watershed Management
- Motivated to do this and tried really hard

This led me to help him establish an independent study in 3-D GIS modeling with the UMass' campus planning department

Even if you are graduating you can still

“Make your Luck”

How do you build that snowball?

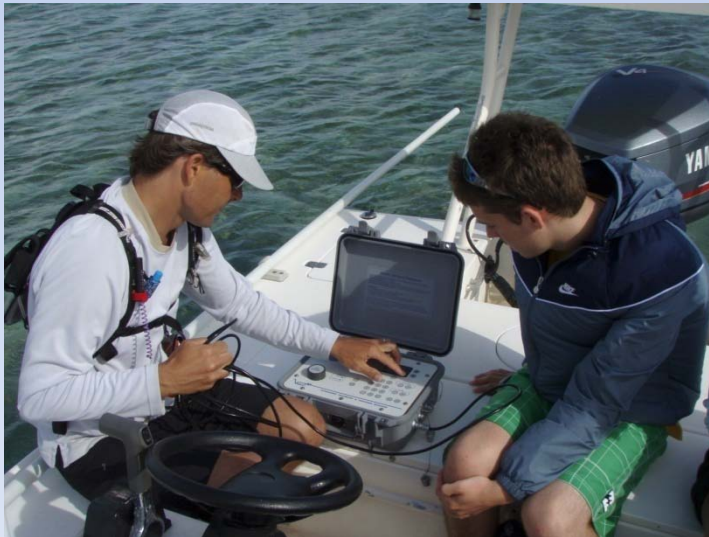
- Push yourself
 - Be creative
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 - Build and demonstrate passion for something
 - Be motivated
 - Be serious
 - Be professional
 - Show self-initiative
 - Work hard
 - Produce the best work you can, especially in areas that you care about
 - Make opportunities happen...
 - Do the above in your own “style”
- These are attributes that employers look for....

For Sophomores or Juniors:

UMass programs that complement your major that might make you more marketable

- Information Technology Minor
 - www.umass.edu/itprogram
- Public Policy Certificate
 - www.masspolicy.org/acad_undergrads.html
- Accelerated Masters Program in Public Policy and Administration
 - http://www.masspolicy.org/stud_curriculum_mpp.html
- For some students, you might want to investigate Masters in Public Policy/Admin or joint programs in environmental science and MPPA

Getting Involved in Primary Research



Benefits

Hands-on, practical experience

Is this field for me?

Foot in the door

Recommendations and
networking potential

Publications and other
experiences



Challenges

Timing

Finding an opportunity

Financial costs

Balancing workload

Tedium



Types of Opportunities

Volunteering in lab or field work

Paid and unpaid internships



Field courses and independent studies (even non-field based)



Research-based study abroad



How to get research experience in 3 steps

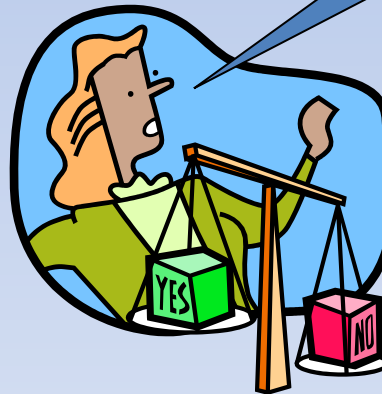
(Did I say they would be easy?)

Paige Warren

Assistant Professor, Dept NRC

Point 1

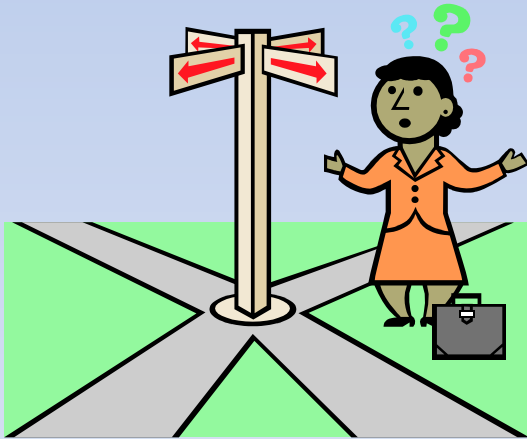
- Get it early & often.



Who should I accept
to my graduate
program?

Point 2

- How to get the first experience?



- Volunteer locally
- SCA.org
- Summer REU programs
http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/list_result.cfm?unitid=5047

Point 3

- Take extra steps



- NRC 497A – course in research design
- Independent studies
- Extra research project in your advanced courses
- Courses above & beyond your requirements (e.g. Conservation Genetics)

Looking for that perfect Job/Internship...

1. Talk to people you know!

2. Favorite websites

[Texas A&M](#)

[Society for Conservation Biology](#)

[USA Jobs](#)

[State government websites](#)

3. Timeline for getting on the ball

November: familiarize yourself with websites, make bookmarks of favorites

December-January: intensive searching, gather application materials, ask grad students/advisor for help finalizing resumé

February: DEADLINES are reality (prioritize, back-up plans, and continue searching)

March: CRUNCH time

April: search for last minute postings/openings

May: get started and have fun!



Grad school...

- **Why go?**
 - Burning questions
 - Skills/qualifications for future job
 - You want some capital letters after your name
- **Masters** (Professional or Thesis) or **PhD**?
- **Paying for school:**
 - 1) Teaching Assistantship (TA)
 - 2) Research Assistantship (RA)
 - 3) Combo



Grad school...

- **How to begin?**

- what are you REALLY interested in?
- what are THEY really interested in/have funding for?
- what have they been working on so far? What needs do they have?

- **Information exchange:**

- Emails to potential advisors, cover letters, resumés, visits/interviews (TALK TO GRAD STUDENTS), decisions
- ASK questions!





The Cover Letter:

How to grab an employer's
attention and snag the
interview

GOTTA HAVE IT:

Cover letters are always expected when applying to jobs. Even if they're not expressly requested, they are expected!



Purpose

Catch the employer's attention to snag the interview
. . . and score the job.

Answer employer's burning question,
"How can this person help US?"
in your own words.

Answer them by addressing the following issues:

1. Why do you want to work for them
2. Why do you fit in with them
3. How do you qualify for the position - i.e. what unique experience do you have that's applicable to the position.

Writing Style

Write in your own words & let your unique voice come through.

Convey your . . .

- personality
- communication skills
- enthusiasm
- intellect
- specific interest in the position/org/company



Be clear, concise & grammatically correct.

Essential Content

Talk about them.

Tailor your CL to the specific employer/position by including:

1. Name of employer
2. Name of person hiring (if available)
3. Name of position
4. Keywords that are meaningful to the employer

Talk about you.

Highlight your strengths by including:

1. Important and relevant accomplishments, skills and experiences listed in resume.
2. Make the compelling case for why you're right for the job.

Format: overview

1. Your return address (2 lines)
2. Date
3. Name, title, and address of recipient
4. Salutation - Dear _____ (:)
5. 3-4 paragraphs
6. Closing - “Sincerely,”
7. Enter 4 single spaces then type name. Hand sign in space if providing hard copy.



Format: paragraphs

Introductory paragraph (1)

- What job & how you heard about it
- Any personal connections
- Your general enthusiasm, motivations

Body paragraphs (1 or 2)

- Highlight specific qualifications by discussing most relevant experiences from resume in detail
- Refer reader to your resume for additional details

Concluding paragraph (1)

- Reiterate enthusiasm
- Request interview (at reader's convenience)
- Include where and when you can be reached
- Express willingness to provide more information
- Thank reader for their time and consideration

Examples

Cover letters and more!

<http://eco.umass.edu/for-current-students/career-opportunities/>

The screenshot shows the website for the Department of Environmental Conservation at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. The header includes the UMass Amherst logo, a search bar, and a 'Show UMass Links' button. The main banner features a yellow and green abstract background with the text 'Department of Environmental Conservation' and the University of Massachusetts Amherst seal. Below the banner, there are links to 'GIVE TO ECo', 'Subscribe to ECo News', and 'Sitemap'. The main content area displays the breadcrumb 'Home > For Current Students > Career Opportunities' and the title 'Career Opportunities'. A link to 'Environmental Conservation Career Workshop Materials' is also visible. A sidebar on the left contains links for 'Home', 'About Us', and 'People'.

UMassAmherst

Show UMass Links Search UMass Amherst Go

Department of Environmental Conservation

University of Massachusetts Amherst

GIVE TO ECo | Subscribe to ECo News | Sitemap

Email Share

Home > [For Current Students](#) > Career Opportunities

Career Opportunities

[Environmental Conservation Career Workshop Materials](#)

Home

About Us

People

Jane R. Doe

XXX-XXX-XXX • XX Main Street, My Town, CA XXXXX • JaneDoe@aol.com

April 27, 2011

Brad Timm
University of Massachusetts-Amherst
timmm@forwild.umass.edu

Dear Mr. Timm,

I am contacting you in response to the job announcement for the amphibian radio-telemetry technician at Cape Cod National Seashore. I have a Bachelor's Degree of Science from the University of Vermont where I majored in wildlife biology, and I have six seasons of experience in wildlife field work. I also have previous radio telemetry experience and an interest in gaining amphibian research experience.

At my current position as a research technician on a desert tortoise research project, I use radio telemetry on a regular, almost daily, basis. My main task on this project has been to track the 40 tortoises with radio transmitters in our study area, and record their locations and relevant behavior data. In addition to tracking, I have spent some time measuring habitat characteristics including burrow measurements, shrub transects, and downloading data loggers. The majority of my time in the field is spent working independently, and I am responsible for accurate data collection.

I have been a member of various biological sampling and monitoring crews and I enjoy working with other people as well as independently. I am in good physical condition and I can maintain a positive attitude when surrounded by mosquitoes.

Thank you for your time Mr. Timm, I encourage you to contact my professional references in regards to my good work ethic and detail-oriented job performance. If you have any questions please contact me at XXX-XXX-XXX or XXXX@aol.com. If I am not able to answer your call, please leave a voice mail message and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Jane R. Doe

80 Jones St. Apt 2
Northampton, MA 01060

October 26, 2009

Jimmy VonHerpetologist
314 Road of Knowledge
San Francisco, CA 10000

Dear Mr. VonHerpetologist:

I'm a highly organized and insatiably curious biologist with a passion for wildlife and public outreach. I have experience with animal identification and specimen preparation and I'm excited and honored to work closely with your esteemed herpetological collection. As a Biology and Socio-cultural Anthropology double major at The George Washington University, I strive to always consider humans as members of dynamic biological environments that we not only have a uniquely powerful ability to disrupt, but also to constantly learn from through observation and experimental manipulation. Your Herpetologist Assistant II working with The California Academy of Sciences herpetological collection will offer me an opportunity to apply my collection handling skills, build my knowledge of amphibians and reptiles and open others' eyes to the wonder of the natural world and, as a result, inspire citizen action to protect natural places and curb environmental destruction.

My lab and field work at The Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory and The George Washington University has prepared me well for this position. I have collected, identified, and pinned insects and arthropods. I understand the importance of delicate handling and meticulous record keeping. I have collected and organized scientific data for diverse research projects and am adept at computing with spreadsheets, word processing, and statistical analysis programs. As a camp counselor at Farm Camp I lead many aquatic and forest ecology discovery activities and have a working knowledge of amphibian and reptile biology. Leading The George Washington University environmental organization and working as a head counselor at Farm Camp helped me develop my capacity to organize people and materials, communicate clearly, and maintain enthusiasm to get projects done. I am outgoing and find great pleasure in educating others about the natural world.

I believe my previous work experience with animal collections and information organization and my zeal for being a liaison between the scientific community and the general public make me an outstanding candidate for this Herpetologist Assistant II position. I would be delighted to arrange an interview at your earliest convenience. Please contact me at 800-939-7674 or at onetwothree@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Resumes



University of Massachusetts Amherst
Environmental Conservation Department
Graduate Student Council
Cristina & Bridget

Where to Start

- Make a list of relevant work, skills, education and volunteer experience
- Look at sample resumes in your field to get ideas
- Start with a sample resume and fill in your information



Sections

- Name and contact info (permanent address)
- Education (degrees, major, expected grad date, GPA, relevant coursework)
- Relevant work/intern/volunteer experience
- Other skills/qualifications/awards
- References (confirm in advance)

General Guidelines: Word Choice

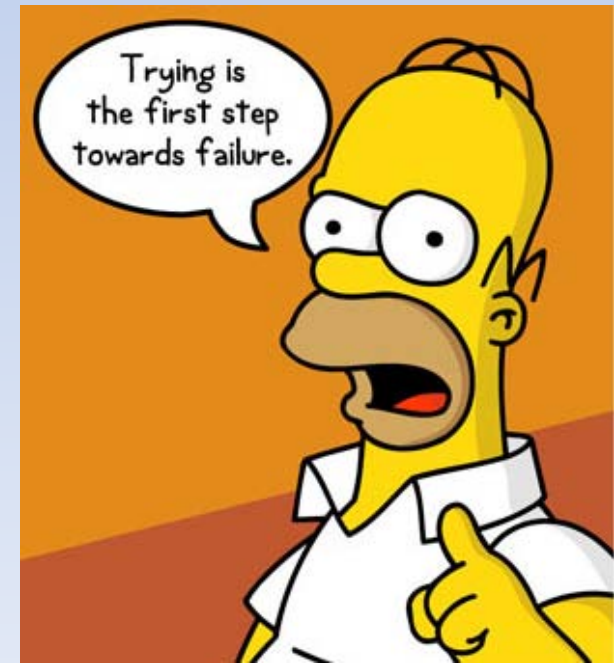
- **Tailor the resume to the specific job**
- Make sure job titles reflect your function
- Avoid jargon and acronyms
- Use active voice and action verbs
- Use **keywords** from the job description
- Break up long sentences
- Quantify and demonstrate skills
 - I supervised three full-time high school interns and advised them on creating a poster of their salt marsh invertebrate research results at our annual All Scientists Meeting

General Guidelines: Format

- **Create balance, not clutter**
- Use bulleted lists, not blocks of text
- Include your name and page number on each page
- Use a standard font, black type
- Use CAPITAL, Bold and Italics consistently to emphasize certain information
- Use consistent formatting throughout sections
- Convert to pdf, and plain text for electronic submission
- **Don't be afraid to show off!**

Reviews

- Trade and review resumes with friends
 - Am I using jargon?
- Ask for reviews from **professors** and **supervisors**
 - Am I including relevant keywords?
- UMass Career Services review
 - <http://www.umass.edu/careers/>
- GET FEEDBACK!



Examples

Resumes and much more!

<http://eco.umass.edu/for-current-students/career-opportunities/>

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UMassAmherst

Show UMass Links Search UMass Amherst Go

Department of Environmental Conservation

University of Massachusetts Amherst

GIVE TO ECo | Subscribe to ECo News | Sitemap Email Share

Home

About Us

People

Home > For Current Students > Career Opportunities

Career Opportunities

[Environmental Conservation Career Workshop Materials](#)

T. Jobsearch

jobsearch@umass.edu
Amherst, MA
XXX-XXX-XXXX

EDUCATION

Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA
Bachelor of Science, May, 2006
Dual Major: Biology & German Studies
Dean's List First Honors (Fall 2004, Spring 2005)

Goethe-Institute, Berlin, Germany, Summer 2003
Received the Zertifikat Deutsch

LABORATORY EXPERIENCE

- Researched components of the B-lymphocyte Cell Signaling Pathway
- Performed Western blotting, flow-cytometry, protein assays, culture of primary lymphocytes as well as long term cell lines, sterile technique
- Autoclaving, dishwashing and preparation of solutions and tissue culture media
- Used biological databases including NCBI Entrez, Swiss-Prot, PDB etc.

FIELD RESEARCH

- Assisted in researching spotted turtles
- Skills learned: trapping, marking, fitting with transmitters, relocating and identifying individuals with the use of radio telemetry and GPS, and record keeping

MANAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION SKILLS

- Organized and coordinated weekend activities and vacations for mentally challenged adults
- Managed weekend relief staff
- Recruited and coordinated volunteers and planned activities for Best Buddies events
- Utilized office skills while volunteering for food pantry

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assisted in teaching elementary German, prepared lessons and sample tests
Corrected homework & exams, held office hours

OTHER SKILLS

Fluent in German, conversant in Spanish
Comfortable with Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and BD FacsDiva,
Certified by Red Cross for CPR, First Aid and medication administration

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Undergraduate Research, June 2005 to Present
Chiles Laboratory, Boston College

Weekend Manager, March 2003 to June 2004
NWW Committee, Newton, MA

Caretaker, June 2001 to June 2002
NWW Committee, Newton, MA

VOLUNTEERING

Membership Coordinator, 2000 to 2003
Best Buddies Boston College

Receptionist and Cook, Summer of 1999 and 2000
Lazarus House Ministries, Lawrence, MA

Generic Functional Resume

Potential employer can
find the info they need

Bullets

Use space wisely so it's
easy on the eyes

This resume is not very
specific to a certain
career or job

T. Jobsearch
jobsearch@umass.edu
College Lane
Amherst, MA
XXX-XXX-XXXX

OBJECTIVE

Seeking a position in the environmental field.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Field experience collecting physiochemical data on streams including water chemistries, GPS, temperature, and discharge
- Experience in stream morphology assessment including cross-sections and longitudinal profiles, sinuosity, pebble counts, embeddedness, and stream habitat characterization
- Collection of macroinvertebrate, periphyton, and *E. coli* samples
- Familiarity with Microsoft Access, ArcGIS, and the Rivermorph software
- Endangered species survey experience: trapping, marking, fitting with transmitters, relocating and identifying spotted turtles with the use of radio telemetry and GPS
- Lab techniques include Western blotting, flow-cytometry, protein assays, culture of primary lymphocytes as well as long term cell lines, solution preparation, and sterile technique
- Extensive coursework in biology including coastal field ecology, environmental field research methods, and undergraduate research in an immunology lab

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science, May, 2006 GPA: 3.3
Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA
Dual Major: Biology & German Studies
Dean's List First Honors 2005-2006

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Sheridan, WY
June 2006 to November 2006
Watershed Monitoring Internship
Collected qualitative and quantitative morphology measures on Wyoming lakes and streams

Thomas Chiles Laboratory, Department of Biology, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA
June 2005 to June 2006
Researched components of the B-lymphocyte Cell Signaling Pathway

WORK AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

NWW Committee Webster House, Newton, MA
June 2001 to June 2006
Weekend Manager for mentally challenged adults in group home
Certified by the Red Cross for CPR and First Aid

Best Buddies Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA
2000 to 2003
Membership Coordinator
Volunteering with mentally challenged adults

Lazarus House Ministries, Lawrence, MA
Summer of 1999 and 2000
Receptionist and Cook for homeless shelter

Objective Resume

Highlight your most important experience and skills

Separate relevant experience from other experience

T. Jobsearch
jobsearch@student.umass.edu (XXX) XXX-XXXX

Education

The George Washington University, Washington DC Graduated Summer 2004, with honors
B.A. Biology, B.A. Socio-cultural Anthropology Cumulative GPA 3.8
University Honors Program Fall 2000-Spring 2004
National Society of Collegiate Scholars Fall 2001-Spring 2004
Phi Beta Kappa

Research Experience in the Biological Sciences

Research Assistant for Dr. Rebecca Irwin, Dartmouth College Summer 2005
Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory, Gothic, CO
• Observed pollination interactions in sub-alpine meadows in presence and absence of invasive flowering plant. Identified plants, insects, birds in field and processed soil and leaf litter samples.

Conservation Intern, Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, Sasabe, AZ Spring 2005
• Surveyed 118,000 acres for endangered owl and cactus species and conducted breeding bird survey and worked at Visitor Center.

Research Assistant for Dr. Dan Blumstein, UCLA Summer 2004
Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory, Gothic CO
• Participated in long-term monitoring of Yellow-bellied marmot populations. Work included animal trapping, blood sampling, observation, blood cell counts, and general lab maintenance.

Independent Research with Dr. John Lill, Dr. Frank Turano, Spring 2004
Dept of Biological Sciences, George Washington University, DC
• Designed and executed an experiment to test the hypothesis that the accumulation of the non-protein amino acid gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA) in Arabidopsis plant tissues functions as a secondary chemical defense against insect herbivory.

Research Assistant for Dr. John Lill, Department of Biological Sciences, GWU Fall 2003
• Conducted field research on leaf tying caterpillars. Reared caterpillars in the lab, quantified insect herbivory damage, and pinned insect specimens.

Education & Youth

Farm Camp Head Counselor, Turkey Hill Community Farm, Cape Elizabeth, ME Summer 2006
• Taught children ages 5-10 about ecology, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, gardening, and sustainable farming using experiential teaching methods.

Organizing Experience

President of Free the Planet! GWU Fall 2003-Spring 2004
• Lead GWU's environmental group and organized campus campaigns and regional environmental actions. Duties included fundraising, procuring media coverage, and informing and coordinating the student body, student gov't, faculty and administration.

• Initiated the *Pass Wind at GW* campaign, which works to pressure the University to purchase 5% of its energy needs from wind power through petition drives and campus-wide teach-ins.

International Experience

School of International Training, Gender and Development Program Fall 2002
Bamako, Mali, West Africa
• Intern at social justice non-profit organization in Bamako, Mali. Worked to promote social status and to provide legal protection and health care to young female domestic workers in urban areas.

Another Functional Resume

Remind employers that you recently graduated

A little cluttered, but ...

Good action verbs!

Observed...

Participated...

Designed and

Executed...

Surveyed...

Lead...

Initiated...

T. Jobsearch
College Lane
Amherst, MA
XXX-XXX-XXXX
jobsearch@student.umass.edu

Career Objective:

Wildlife and environmental research, management, policy, and education, with a focus on wetlands.

Education:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Framingham State College | Spring 2004-May 2007 |
| • Middlesex Community College | Spring 2002-Fall 2003 |
| • University of Massachusetts Amherst | Fall 2001 |

Related Courses:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| • Biology | • Invertebrate Zoology |
| • Comparative Vertebrate Physiology | • Methods in Research |
| • Ecology | • Municipal Land Use |
| • Environmental Geology | • Ornithology |
| • Environmental Law and Policy | • Wetland: Hydrology, Ecology, and Restoration |
| • Environmental Science | • Wildlife Biology |
| • Evolution | • Vascular Plant Taxonomy |

Research Project:

- Wetland Delineation
 - Senior research project entailed an evaluation of twelve wetland replication sites in Massachusetts using the MA Wetland Delineation Guidelines
 - Paper was presented at 37th Annual Framingham State College Biology Student Research Conference where I received the Thomas Thornton Award, and the 2006 Eastern New England Biology Conference, and 2006 Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society

Field Skills:

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| • Community Analysis | • Mist-Netting |
| • Deer Aging | • Plant Identification |
| • GPS | • Radio Telemetry |
| • Herbarium | • Soil Sampling |
| • Hoop Nets | • Sherman and Tomahawk Traps |
| • Mark-Recapture | • Water Sampling |

Work Experience:

- **Conservation Commission** **Sept. 2006-Current**
 - Internship in the Conservation Office in Framingham, MA
 - Assist with various projects such as launching a Land Stewardship Volunteer Program, the exploration of permitting Bow Hunting on Conservation Land, and Baseline Documentation of Conservation Commission parcels
 - Other tasks include: site visits, permits, assistance administrative duties and attendance at Conservation Commission meetings
- **BioTeach** **Feb. 2006**
 - Worked as a lab assistant for a BioTeach Workshop that was hosted by Framingham

Long Form Resume for a Specific Job (FWS)

Don't be afraid to go over one page!

Highlight coursework

Field skills section

Don't be shy!

Paper was presented at 37th Annual Framingham State College Biology Student Research Conference where I received the Thomas Thornton Award,

- Reviewed several Environmental Impact Statement documents regarding Liquid Nitrogen Gas offshore terminals, highway, and watershed management projects
 - Presented an overview of the North Atlantic Right Whale Strike Reduction Strategy proposed by NOAA to the Deputy Regional Administrator and several other employees
 - Participated in a public outreach event on the Ocean Survey Vessel *Bold* in Norwich, CT. Assisted in laboratory with showing the public invertebrate samples taken from the shore line
- **New England Wildflower Society** **July-Aug. 2006**
 - Instructor
 - Cattail Nature Kids camp at Garden in the Woods
- **Brown and Caldwell Environmental Engineers and Consulting** **March-June 2006**
 - Field Assistant
 - Surveyed *Clemmys guttata* (Spotted Turtle), using hoop nets, and *Hemidactylum scutatum* (Four toed salamander) populations on a proposed construction site
- **New England Wildflower Society** **Dec. 2004-Aug. 2005**
 - Education Internship
 - Teachers' aid in grant assisted program for Framingham grade schools focused on environmental education
 - Managed and conducted environmental summer camp, Eco Explorers, at Garden in the Woods
- **Various part time jobs throughout college and high school**

Memberships:

- The Wildlife Society Student Chapter at Framingham State College (TWS)
 - Secretary
- Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS)
- Association of Massachusetts Wetland Scientists (AMWS)
- The New England Wildflower Society (NEWFS)

Conferences:

- Society of Wetland Scientists New England Chapter: Regional Wetland Research Conference, November, 2006
- The Wildlife Society 13th Annual Conference, Anchorage, AK, September, 2006
 - Presented paper: Preliminary Evaluation of Replicated Wetlands Using the Massachusetts Wetland Delineation Method
- Eastern New England Biology Conference April, 2006
 - Presented paper: Preliminary Evaluation of Replicated Wetlands Using the Massachusetts Wetland Delineation Method
- The Wildlife Society Student Conclave March, 2006
- MACC Annual Environmental Conference March, 2006

Certifications:

- Project WILD Aquatic
- Project WOW! The Wonders of Wetlands

References:

- Dr. Brandi Van Roo
 - Framingham State College Assistant Professor of Biology
 - 508-626-4799

Long Form cont.

Took the space to list:

Memberships

Conferences Attended

Certifications

References!

Interview


- Research perspective employer
 - Basis for questions to employer
 - Shows genuine interest
- Prepare for common questions
 - Why do you want to work here?
 - Why do you think you'd be good for this position?
 - What's your greatest strength/weakness?
 - What do you expect out of this position?
 - What type of experience do you have?



Interview

- Plan ahead, arrive early, turn **off** your phone
- Bring copies of CV and have references ready
- Dress to impress, appropriately for the position
- Show confidence!
 - Think “this position is for me”
 - Smile, strong handshake, make eye contact
- Follow with a thank you letter/e-mail!
 - Thanks for their consideration/time
 - Sets you apart from the pack

Environmental Conservation Career Workshop



Department of Environmental Conservation

University of Massachusetts Amherst

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Environmental Conservation Career Workshop Materials

Graduate students and Faculty have shared their strategies to successfully land a career in environmental conservation and related fields. Follow these links to see their strategies:

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Last updated May 20, 2011 by Roxann Cormier

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