



2019 Internship Forum

NRES Internships and Research Experiences
October 29, 2019, 5:30-7:30pm, Good Barn

 College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

Schedule

Welcome and Introductions:

Dr. Jack Schieffer, Agricultural Economics

Presenters:

- Amy Sohner, Executive Director, Bluegrass Greensource NRCM (now NRES) '99
- Madison Moreno, NRES Student
- Hattie Nunley, NRES Student

Poster Presentations for:

NRE 395 Research in Natural Resources
NRE 399 Internship in Natural Resources

Brad Carter, Natural Resource

Conservation Service: I worked with the Natural Resource Conservation Service as a soil conservationist trainee. I worked with farmers and other landowners to implement conservation practices on their lands.



Alex Eberle, Palmer Engineering: While working as a GIS Analyst over the summer, I assisted in digital mapping and data creation for multiple state highway and interstate projects. I had the opportunity to work with an interdisciplinary team of technical writers, biologists and civil engineers. Some of the work I did included; ortho-photo rectification, corridor, crash, environmental, and historical impact analysis.

Beth Evers, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife:

This summer I was fortunate to work for ODFW District Office in The Dalles, Oregon. The district covers close to 20,000 acres including the Lower Deschutes Wildlife Region and parts of Mt. Hood National Forest. My main duties included checking and deploying trail cameras for wolves in the area.

John Paul Beard, UK Extension Office: I had the pleasure to work with Brad Lee and Suzette Walling during the Spring 2019 semester. I prepared a literature review of research I had been aiding with for the past two years. The research revolved around phosphorus contributions to aquatic systems from pet waste.

Jackson Bell, Lexington Tree Board: This summer I had the opportunity to work with Greg Doyle in the Lexington Tree Board. His project was to create an educational tree walk through Woodland Park in Lexington, Kentucky. Our project aims to inform the public of the importance of trees in an urban setting and how to identify them.



Holly Foster, UK Price Labs: I worked with Michaela Lambert and Dr. Steven Price on their research involving the crawfish frog (*Lithobates areolatus*) at the West Kentucky Wildlife

Management Area. Audio devices, known as frogloggers, recorded data from Pond 7, which I then listened to for the months of February and March to determine when the crawfish frog might call.



Quentin Bishop, Wood and Water Land Trust: This summer I had the opportunity to work with Deborah White and supervisor Ben Rasp at Woods and Water Land Trust to cooperate with local land owners to help remove invasive plants.

Rachel Bramel, Stanwood Wildlife Sanctuary: I spent the summer in Ellsworth Maine, just outside of Acadia National Park. At the sanctuary I gave tours of a historic homestead of a pioneer ornithologist, cared for and created enrichment opportunities for injured raptors in captivity, rehabilitated injured wildlife, designed habitats for a variety of species, and helped maintain miles of wooded trails.

Stephen Frank-Heun, Timber Titans: This summer I worked with a small newly founded company known as Timber Titans LLC (owned by Jay Fuller), based out of Midway, KY. The work was based around timber management and arborist services with some woodworking during free time. My duties were to assist with running proper equipment necessary in removal techniques, then using wood tools to form beautiful decorative pieces. My main course of work stretched throughout the state of KY.



Willie Graas, UK Herbarium: I worked as a technician for the UK Herbarium under the direction of curator Rob Paratley. The Herbarium showcases a growing catalog of the native flora of Kentucky. I processed new plant specimens and also participated on trips to collect specimens.

Viktor Halmos, The Food Connection at UK: For the Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 semesters, I had the opportunity to work with Dr. Lilian Brislen and Chef Tanya Whitehouse at the Food Connection. My role was co-leader and program chef for the #Adulting program. This internship included tasks such as menu planning, recipe research and creation, food preparation and preservation, and cooking demonstrations in front of students and faculty.



Richard Helsley, Lexington-Fayette County Urban Government: I worked as a GIS Intern with the Division of Environmental Quality within the Lexington-Fayette County Urban Government. I created a variety of maps: interactive, static, and story maps.

Nicholas Hope, Department for Environmental Protection: This summer I had the pleasure to work with Larry Tichenor the supervisor for the Madisonville regional office for the DEP. My duties were to go and conduct a waste tire retailer inspection on different tire retailers in our region. Our region included 12 counties which are, Muhlenberg, Daviess, McLean, Hopkins, Christian, Todd, Webster, Caldwell, Crittenden, Trigg, Union, Henderson.

Kailey Jensen, Puget Sound Estuarium: This summer I worked as an environmental educator and partook in animal husbandry duties for the Puget Sound Estuarium in Olympia, Washington. My main duties included tending to the organisms at the main facility and teaching the public/ school groups about biodiversity and anthropogenic impacts on the environment.



Shannon McCall, Woods and Water Land Trust: As an intern with the Woods and Water Land Trust, I spent most days traveling to various properties in Franklin County to remove invasive species. I also completed an individual project consisting of a composition and abundance survey to observe the effectiveness of land management practices.

Madison Moreno, Arizona Dept. of Water Resources: I worked as an Active Management Areas Intern in the Arizona Dept. of Water Resources. I conducted statistical analysis to create guidelines for reducing groundwater use in specific areas of the state.

Madison Mosher, UK Department of Forestry: This past Spring semester I had the opportunity to work with Dr. Chris Barton with his non-profit organization Green Forest Works. I was able to work on various tree planting events and to see what it was like to be a part of an organization such as this. Along with tree planting events, I was able to help a couple of graduate students involved with the Green Forest Works on their research projects. Some work included researching certain vegetation that is present on a West Virginia coal mine site, and analyzing data on the hydroperiods and vegetation on the wetlands also found in West Virginia.



Hattie Nunley, Maejo University, Thailand: This past summer I had the unique opportunity to travel to Northern Thailand to intern at Maejo University, the country's premiere agricultural institution. For 7 weeks I worked on the university's 350-acre diversified research farm

and attended lectures on a wide variety of sustainable agriculture topics, with the majority of my work focused on integrated pest and fertility management in organic systems, crop breeding, and food security initiatives.

Alumna Speaker: Amy Sohner is the Executive Director of Bluegrass Greensource, a Lexington-based community outreach organization that develops and promotes programs to improve water quality, waste management, and environmental education in the Central Kentucky region. She graduated from the NRES program (Natural Resource Conservation and Management) in 1999. Her background is in environmental education, and she now spends her time on Bluegrass Greensource program development, staff, and finance management.



Corby Smith, Aquatic Resources Management: I worked as a Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) lab technician at Aquatic Resources Management in Lexington. I developed and practiced a wide variety of technical lab skills in a hands-on environment. In particular, I worked on indicator species culturing with fathead minnows.

Shannon Whitmer, Bay View Association Woods Committee: This summer I worked as an intern helping the Bay View Association Woods Committee. My main job was developing forest-related activities for kids age 7-14 in the local recreation program in order to get them more engaged with the woods. I also provided input during woods committee meetings as one of only two voices there under the age of 30.

Brianna Stanley, UK Psychology: I worked in the lab with Dr. Ellen Usher of UK's Psychology Dept. Our research project seeks to understand how people's self-efficacy and beliefs about their own capabilities affects their willingness to engage in pro-environmental behaviors. I worked primarily on a literature review to evaluate existing measures of self-efficacy.

Lauren Wilson, Fox Run Environmental Education Center: This summer, I had the opportunity to work as an intern with Ame Vanorio at Fox Run Environmental Education Center. Fox Run serves as a sustainable organic farm and a wildlife rehabilitation facility. My main duties were assisting with vaccinations, bottle feedings, cage cleaning, medication distribution, etc. In addition to this, I helped my supervisor, Ame, educate the public about the importance of caring for our environment.



Amy Susko, Raven Run Nature Sanctuary: This spring I worked as a seasonal intern with Raven Run Nature Sanctuary. My work mainly focused on community outreach through educational programs for the public. I often shadowed and helped run nature programs for people of all ages. Other duties included trail maintenance, mulching trees,

removing invasive species, making educational displays for the nature center, and anything else needed to make the park enjoyable for the public.

Elizabeth Winebarger, UK and the Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana: I worked on a research project to conduct a site analysis of the Bear Creek Aquatic Camp, where I had attended as a camper and later a counselor. I developed a number of digital maps to replace outdated hand-drawn maps. I also analyzed how various ecological factors impacted the camp and vice versa.

Kelly Walker, UK Food Connection: As an intern, I worked with Dr.s Lilian Breslin and Leigh Maynard to organize the first annual Local Kentucky Food Systems Summit. I also worked on an independent project to create short summary videos of the speakers at the event.

For more information, visit the Natural Resources and Environmental Science website: www.uky.edu/NRES
Or contact: Adia Sovie, NRES Academic Coordinator, adia.sovie@uky.edu, 859-257-2337

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