

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania

- MA in Conservation Biology
- BA in Biology and Environmental Studies (with Distinction)

Scripps Institution of Oceanography: June 2005 - Present

- Ph.D. Candidate
- Awarded a two-year IGERT Fellowship by the National Science Foundation

EXPERIENCE

June 2007 – Present: Director of Natural and Social Science
Strategic Ocean Solutions

- Developing population models and proposing management recommendations for Elkhorn and Staghorn Coral – the first two species of coral on the Endangered Species list, and primary reef builders throughout the Caribbean (3 Year Contract with NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program, this project comprises my Ph.D. thesis)

July – August 2006: Oceans Program Intern
Environmental Defense

- Developed population model for river herring and presented findings at the 64th Northeast Annual Fish and Wildlife Conference
- Drafted and submitted policy recommendations to NOAA NMFS detailing conservation recommendations for the Elkhorn and Staghorn Coral

June 2000 – June 2005: Grant Writer / Project Manager / Ecologist
City of New York Parks & Recreation - Natural Resources Group

- Coordinated submission of grant proposals (\$7 million), working with community based organizations and elected officials; authored grant proposals for monitoring, coastal and upland habitat restoration, and education/awareness (\$3 million)
- Initiated and developed a campaign to acquire and protect land in ecologically valuable areas in northwest Staten Island – resulted in the creation of a multi-agency task force, land transfers, \$3 million in acquisition funds, and \$400,000 in grant awards for restoration and ecological monitoring
- Managed New York City's Forever Wild Nature Preserve Program – from site designation, to multi agency/organization partnership, to grant award, to promotion, to outreach and education
- Developed and implemented vegetation monitoring protocols for riparian habitat restoration; synthesize and analyze data for a three-year EPA-funded study
- Developed, analyzed, and refined protocols for long-term, citywide, ecological monitoring study; lead team of six interns in data collection and entry

June – December 1999: Benthic Ecology Research Assistant
Bermuda Biological Station for Research

- Conducted fieldwork including long-term monitoring of seagrass beds, fish species diversity, mangroves, and coral reefs as part of the Caribbean Coastal Marine Productivity Program
- Directed a study on the effects of hurricanes on coral reefs for the National Marine Sanctuaries
- Mapped and assessed dredging impacts on historic and existing reefs

Sept 1995– June 1999: Service Learning Student & Teacher
University of Pennsylvania – West Philadelphia School System

- Coordinated student activities as the Resident Assistant for Service Learning Dormitory (1996-7)
- Taught Outdoor Education at Suzlberger Middle School as part of undergraduate thesis, Environmental Science at West Philly Middle School, and Outdoor Sculpture at University City High

ADDITIONAL AWARDS AND SKILLS

- PADI Mini-Grant, Edna Bailey Sussman Internship, NSF IGERT Mini-Grant
- Dorot Travel Grant for Masters Capstone Project
- Nassau Competitive Undergraduate Research Grant
- Scientific Diver, 500+ logged dives