

# Curriculum Vitae

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## CAREER OBJECTIVES

I plan to pursue a career in ecological research focused in the area of natural resource conservation and environmental preservation. My goal is to fully utilize my academic and interpersonal skills, as well as my strong work ethic to fulfil my passion for the natural world.

## EDUCATION

2005-	Simon Fraser University: M.Ed. (Environmental Ed.) Candidate
1998-2003	University of British Columbia: Marine Biology; Anthropology B.A.
2001	Institute for Tropical Ecology and Conservation (ITEC)
2000	Simon Fraser University

## WORK EXPERIENCE

- **Biological Station Manager/ Biology Teaching Assistant** Institute for Tropical Ecology and Conservation (ITEC) Boca del Drago, Isla Colon, Bocas del Toro, Panama (June 2005-August 2005)

From June to August of this year, I was asked to act as the Station Manager as well as a TA for a coral reef ecology class being taught by Dr. Alfred Beulig from New College of Florida. The duties of the Station Manager were to organize and coordinate field courses being taught there, a liaison between the biological station and visiting researchers and professors as well as ensuring that the day-to-day upkeep of the station. In regards to the duties as a TA, I was responsible for the safety of the students in the field, acted as the boat driver and helping the students in the class as well as out in the field with their final projects.

- **Biology Instructor** Lyman Briggs School at Michigan State Study Abroad Program, Boca del Drago, Isla Colon, Bocas del Toro, Panama (June 2005)

A number of different educational institutes visit to ITEC's field school in Panama to study tropical ecology. Lyman Briggs School at Michigan State contracted me to act as their coral reef ecology instructor. This entailed not only educating their university level students of the marine biology and ecology of this area but I also was responsible to create a field project for these students which they were later to receive a grade from Michigan State.

- **Environmental Educator** The Sierra de Huautla Center for Environmental Education and Investigation (CEAMISH) and Institute for Tropical Ecology and Conservation (ITEC), Bocas del Toro, Panama (June 2004- August 2005)

For the past two years I have been working with Gaby Alonso (M.Ed.) from CEAMISH on an environmental education program in the province of Bocas del Toro, Panama. This project, funded by Conservation International (CI) and the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), created environmental education material for schools in the Bocas del Toro province.

- **IUCN Central American Shark Special Group Assistant Coordinator** IUCN C/O TRAFFIC International, Cambridge, United Kingdom (June 2004-presently)

IUCN SSG members, which I am a part of, are shark researchers who have voluntarily come together in order to exchange ideas and help one another in an effort to conserve and protect sharks around the world. I volunteer my time to the IUCN SSG Program Officer, Dr. Rachel Cavanagh, as an Assistant Coordinator for the Central American SSG. My duties involve contacting Central American delegates involved in shark research in their respective countries, gathering information on shark fisheries and shark populations from these delegates as well as translating important documents into Spanish for the IUCN SSG.

- **Biological Station Manager/ Biology Teaching Assistant** Institute for Tropical Ecology and Conservation (ITEC), Bocas del Drago, Isla Colon, Bocas del Toro, Panama (June 2004-August 2004)

In 2004 at ITEC, I acted as a TA for two coral reef ecology courses which were taught by Dr. Alfred Beulig from New College and Dr. Robert DeWreede from the University of British Columbia. At the same time I was also assisting the director of the institute, Dr. Peter Lahanas with day-to-day chores; such as aiding other professors and students when they needed help, as well as keeping an eye on the safety of the students,

- **Research Biologist** Conservation Science Institute (CSI), Santa Cruz, California, U.S.A. (June 2002- 2005)

With the help of the Conservation Science Institute I began a study in 2002 called the Caribbean Coral Reef Management and Conservation Program -Panama (CCRMCP-Panama). The program's aim is to properly understand the mechanisms of coral reef degradation in the Caribbean of Panama in order to provide important information for the efficient management and conservation of coral reefs by organizations and governments throughout the Caribbean.

- **Research Biologist** Conservation Science Institute (CSI), Santa Cruz, California, U.S.A. (May 2003- 2005)

Working with Conservation Science Institute's Ocean Change Initiative and Predator Program, I conducted preliminary survey of local fisherman in the Caribbean of Panama for a project I am leading with CSI called the Shark Habitat Assessment and Research Program-Panama (SHARP-Panama)

- **Research Assistant** ICA Copper Library, Department of Earth and Ocean Sciences, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada (September 2001 – May 2004)

The ICA Copper Library is the only copper library at a university in the world. This library provides information to all scholars and professionals around the world on the effects of copper in all environments. My duties here were to categorize, process and find works on copper research. I also worked as translator in Spanish and French.

- **Conservation Biologist** Institute for Tropical Ecology and Conservation (CSI), Bocas del Drago, Isla Colon, Bocas del Toro, Panama (October 2003)

In an effort to protect decimating coral reefs in the Caribbean, I was part of a committee whose goal was to convince the Panamanian government to title a coral reef off the coast of Isla Colon. Bocas del Toro, Panama a MPA (Marine Protected Area). My responsibility in the write-up of the proposal to ANAM (Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente) of Panama was to list all the marine organisms on the reef (i.e. corals, sponges, fish, etc.) that would be protected if the coral reef were to become a marine park.

- **Research Biologist** Institute for Tropical Ecology and Conservation (ITEC), Bocas del Drago, Isla Colon, Bocas del Toro, Panama (July 2003 – August 2003)

Investigated, with Dr. Dimitri Deheyn, the condition and status of acroporid corals in the Caribbean and recorded the possible transition of two Caribbean coral reefs towards an alternative stable state. We did this by documenting the community diversity of coral reef communities that were once dominated by *A. palmata* and *A. cervicornis* by surveying known acroporid structured coral reefs found at Lime Point (Punta Lima) and Conch Point (Punta Caracol) off the coast of Isla Colon, Bocas del Toro, Panama. My other responsibility was to write a research proposal before hand to ANAM( Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente) of Panama for the permit to conduct this study

- **Biology Teaching Assistant** Institute for Tropical Ecology and Conservation (ITEC), Bocas del Drago, Isla Colon, Bocas del Toro, Panama (July 2003 - August 2003)

Assisted Dr. Dimitri Deheyn in teaching marine biology and ecology concepts, as well as fieldwork techniques to university students from North and South America taking a coral reef ecology class at the Institute of Tropical Ecology and Conservation in Panama. This entailed informing students of the dangerous affects that overfishing and pollution have had on the whole coral reef community, not just the coral themselves. My other duties included acting as a boat driver, while as well being responsible for the safety of these students while they were in the ocean scuba diving and when they were out.

- **Research Biologist** Institute for Tropical Ecology and Conservation (ITEC), Bocas del Drago, Isla Colon, Bocas del Toro, Panama (May 2003 –July 2003)

Responsible for leading research into the alga overgrowth of the coral *Acropora cervicornis*. This included a proposal presentation to ANAM ( Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente) of Panama for a research permit. Analysis involved testing for chlorine, phosphorous, copper, dissolved oxygen and coliform from marine water samples. Additional responsibilities included the examination of epizootic algae growing over coral and the corals themselves.

- **Research Biologist** Institute for Tropical Ecology and Conservation (ITEC), Bocas del Drago, Isla Colon, Bocas del Toro, Panama (June 2002 – August 2002)

Implemented and designed a pilot project that researched the sources, transport, and fate of environmental contaminants to coastal ecosystems, specifically coral reefs. The study centered on answering the cause of a drastic decline in live *Acropora cervicornis* in a year and the resulting alga overgrowth.

- **Research Biologist** Institute for Tropical Ecology and Conservation (ITEC), Bocas del Drago, Isla Colon, Bocas del Toro, Panama (June 2001 – August 2001)

Designed and implemented a pilot project related to the ecological well-being of a Caribbean coral reef; paying particular attention to the corals *Acropora palmata*, *Agaricia tenuifolia* and *Turbinaria sp* . This research characterized the use of these corals as indicator species for the relative health of Caribbean coral reefs.

- **Research Archaeologist** Department of Archaeology, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada (May 2000 – December 2000)

Conducted an archaeological excavation under the guidance of Simon Fraser University on a shell midden in Indian Arm, BC, Canada. I was responsible for the collection and laboratory preparation of the excavated bivalve shells belonging to *Saxidomus giganteus* and *Prothaca staminea* . I was then responsible for laboratory analysis of these shells to deduce a seasonal use of the excavated site by pre-historic First Nation inhabitants

- **Archaeological Laboratory Assistant** Department of Anthropology and Sociology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada (January 2000 – April 2000)

Prepared bivalve molluscs for archaeological shellfish analysis and conducted analysis. Using a bandsaw, Quickmount and lower powered microscope, I inferred from the shell growth rings the seasonal use of the site in question by previous pre-historic First Nations people.

## **CONFERENCES & SEMINARS ATTENDED**

- 2004** International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) North and Central America Red List Shark Workshop

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Anderson, K., Close, L., DeWreede, R. E., Lynch, B. J., Ormond, C. and M. Walker  
2006. Biomechanical properties and holdfast morphology of coenocytic algae  
(Halimedales, Chlorophyta) in Bocas del Toro, Panama. *Journal of Experimental  
Marine Biology and Ecology* 328: 155-167

**Certifications:** PADI ADVANCED Water Diving Certification, 2002 PADI  
MEDIC FIRST-AID, ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY TRAINING- Resources  
Inventory Committee of British Columbia; F.C.S. Network: Forest Service, British  
Columbia, Canada: B.C. Environment: Province of British Columbia.

**Professional Memberships:** Institute for Tropical Ecology and  
Conservation (ITEC); Conservation Science Institute (CSI); IUCN Shark Specialist  
Group (IUCN SSG)