Molly Cisneros

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Education

Rice University, Houston, TX, *Cum Laude, Distinction in Creative Works*

B.S Ecology and Evolutionary Biology; focus in Conservation Biology, Anthropology minor; May 2015
Boston University, School for Field Studies, Center for Rainforest Studies, Australia

Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA

PhD in Agriculture and Resource Economics, in progress
GRE: Verbal-165 (95%)/Quantatative-162 (83%)/Analytical writing-5 (93%)

Scientific Experience

Laboratory Intern, Dunham Conservation Biology Lab, Rice University**,** Sept. 2011-Dec.2012

- Assisted in set up, maintenance and design of laboratory experiments involving community dynamics and species competition with regards to climate change, using bean beetles as model species with PhD candidate
- Sort, identify and sex replicates of interspecies competition experiments with up to 8 species of bean beetle

Laboratory/Field Intern, Rudolf Community Ecology Lab, Rice University, May 2012- Aug. 2012

- Assisted in set up, maintenance and take down of aquatic community ecology experiments with frogs
- Worked closely with and learned to identify native Texas amphibians and insects, assisted in administrative work and data entry
- Worked 40+ hour days, mainly outside, working closely with peers and graduate students, always prepared to change the daily schedule should weather work for or against preliminary plans

Applied Coursework, Boston University: The School for Field Studies, Center for Rainforest Studies, QLD Australia, Sept. 2013-Dec. 2013

- Learned techniques for rainforest restoration and management through field exercises such as:
  - Determining secondary regrowth patterns of historically selectively logged rainforest
  - Working with DIVAGIS to evaluate and predict changing habitat availability due to global climate change

Independent Research Experience

Human Sensitivity in Captive Bred Houston Toads*:* **Rice University Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology & Houston Zoo**, 2012-2013

*Using hands-free feeding devices, toad behavior was observed for reaction to human presence in response to breeder's concerns that the endangered toads' survival was impaired by their comfort with humans. (*Poster Presentation: Rice Undergraduate Research Symposium 2014)

Wet Tropics Management Analysis: **Boston University's School for Field Studies, Australia,** 2013

*Interviews were conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of conservation management in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. (*Paper: Unpublished paper prepared for capstone project)

Water Policy in Texas: **Rice University Department of Anthropology,** 2014

Interviews were conducted to evaluate the intersection of environmental and cultural events required to elicit changes in Texas Water Policy. (Presented for Rice University Faculty)

Sea-level Rise Threats to Protected Whooping Crane Populations in Texas: **Rice University Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology,** 2014-2015

ARC*GIS analysis of climate change caused sea level rise along the Texas Gulf Coast. Maps will reflect potentially threatened areas and will be used to create suggestions for future whooping crane conservation efforts. (*Poster Presentation 2015)

Other

- Avid runner, hiker, kayaker, camper and backpacker
- Extensive environmental outreach and education work

Awards

- Explorer's Club Young Explorer's Award (2014) $3,500- declined due to cancellation of project due to health concerns
- Ken Kennedy Institute for Information Technology Prize (2015) $500
- Clark P. Read Award for Excellence: Rice University Biosciences Department (2015) $150
- Vice Chancellor of Agriculture Graduate Fellowship: Louisiana State University (2015) $25,000