



CENTER FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

Notice

Reproduction of this material is authorized by the recipient institution for non-profit/non-commercial educational use and distribution to students enrolled in course work at the institution. Distribution may be made by photocopying or via the institution's intranet restricted to enrolled students. Recipient agrees not to make commercial use, such as, without limitation, in publications distributed by a commercial publisher, without the prior express written consent of AMNH.

All reproduction or distribution must provide full citation of the original work and provide a copyright notice as follows:

“Copyright 2017, by the authors of the material, with license for use granted to the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation of the American Museum of Natural History. All rights reserved.”

Any opinions, findings and conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the American Museum of Natural History.

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
 CENTER FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

Building a Career in Conservation

SCCS-NY 2017 Workshop
 Oct 13, 2017
 Kauffman Auditorium
 American Museum of Natural History


AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
 CENTER FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION @raewynngrant

Dr. Rae Wynn-Grant

Research Interests: carnivore ecology & conservation in human landscapes
Currently: postdoctoral fellow at AMNH
Side projects: communicating science/engaging the media
Spearheading: equity, inclusion, and diversity in conservation
Former life: classical music




AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
 CENTER FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION



Christian J. Rivera

CONSERVATION BIOLOGY
 M.A. CANDIDATE

Hometown: San Pablo, Costa Rica & Bridgeport, Connecticut
 Education: B.A. Ecology & Evolutionary Biology; M.A. Conservation Biology
 Interests: Human-Wildlife Interactions; Wildlife Trade & Exploitation; Cultural & Biological Diversity
 Region: Latin America & Southeast Asia




Peter Houlihan

Mission:
Expedition leader fusing scientific research and visual media to raise awareness for conservation

Field sites: *Tropical Rainforests*

Currently:
 Finishing PhD, University of Florida
 National Geographic Explorer
 Director, (BRINCC) NGO in Borneo



peter-houlihan.com @peter_houlihan

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
 CENTER FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

Mary Blair, Director, Biodiversity Informatics Research @marye_blair

- Affiliated Professor, Columbia U. and RGGG
- Research interests:
 - Conservation biogeography & spatial priority-setting
 - Social-ecological systems
- Vietnam, Costa Rica, Madagascar
- Background:
 - Liberal arts college; Columbia U. PhD
 - AMNH Postdoc
 - Theater & Music & Sports
 - Saami




Alexandra Sutton

Lead Editor, Energy, Policy, Duke University

Research Interests: Biodiversity conservation & human-wildlife conflict

Research Area: Sub-Saharan Africa

Languages: French, Kiswahili

Prior Funding: NSF, USDA, Jordan Institute, Ecological Society of America

Prior Study: B.S. Biology, 2007 Howard University; M.S. Wildlife & Fisheries, 2009, Texas A&M University



AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CENTER FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

Twitter: @cynth_malone

PhD in Geography at the University of Toronto

Cynthia Malone



Career Highlights:

- AMNH-HSSRP dung beetle research
- orangutan ecology in Indonesia
- human-wildlife conflict in Cameroon
- organizer in movement for Black lives
- program manager for AMNH CBC in the Solomon Islands

Career Goals:

- Human-wildlife coexistence in multi-functional social-ecological systems
- A diverse, equitable, and decolonized conservation science

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CENTER FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

Who and what drives conservation research?

Who and what drives conservation action?

What drives you?

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CENTER FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

**Conservation Science:
*What we need; Who we need***

Rae Wynn-Grant
SCCS-NY Conservation Careers Workshop
Oct 13, 2017

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CENTER FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

Funding and Applying for Opportunities

Student Conference on Conservation Science - New York 2017
Dr. Mary E. Blair
mblair1@amnh.org

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CENTER FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

Where to look for funding:

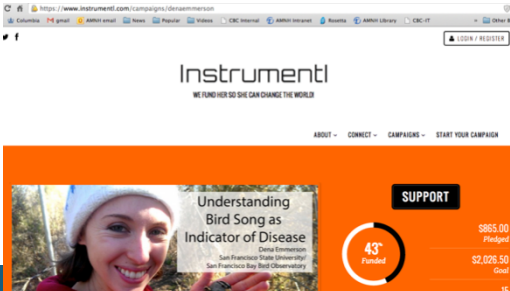
- Government:
 - National Science Foundation
 - National Institutes of Health
 - NOAA/NASA/USAID/EPA
 - McNair Scholars
- Private Foundations
 - Ford Foundation, Fulbright, National Geographic.
 - World Wildlife Fund for Nature
- Professional Societies
- Your University




AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CENTER FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

Crowdsourcing

- Experiment.com, microryza



The screenshot shows a crowdfunding page for 'Understanding Bird Song as Indicator of Disease' by David Zimmerman, San Francisco State University. The goal is \$855.00, and \$2,026.50 has been pledged. A progress indicator shows 43% funded.

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CENTER FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

Network at Conferences

- ESA SEEDS
- SCB Sections
- Conferences are where things happen.
- Travel awards available for most conferences
- Apply for student awards!
- Your university/department may have matching or stand-alone funds




SCB Student Training Scholarship Winners 2014

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CENTER FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

Postdoctoral Fellowships

- Most important tip for graduate students: network and give talks at conferences, other universities

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CENTER FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

Mentors

- Developmental relationship
 - guide to a field of work/study
 - Enhance career development
- Mentor/mentee, near-peer, peer
- Facilitates increased access to
 - information, networks
- Practical day-to day advice
- Can go both ways

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CENTER FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION



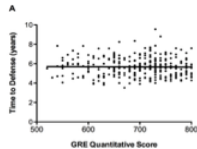
AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CENTER FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

Tips when Applying

- Start early -
- Look and ask for examples
- Don't be afraid to contact the program director
- Send drafts! To friends and mentors and recommenders
- Ask for recommendation letters ~1 month before, send them bullet points
- Use and remember your institution's grants office and writing center.

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CENTER FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

Do GREs matter?



- Despite known biases, GREs still matter. BUT
 - It's more important to build a relationship with your potential advisor and get great letters from your mentors.

(Moneta-Koehler et al. 2017; Hall et al. 2017)

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CENTER FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

Interviews

- Self-reflection
 - How does it advance your career goals?
 - What skills do you bring? What more do you need to learn?
- Do your research, ask questions
 - Who else is at the organization/department? How could you collaborate with them?
 - I am so impressed when students have read my papers and ask questions!
- Standard questions
 - How have you overcome a challenge?

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CENTER FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

What are my skills??!?!

- Research/Thesis = Project Management, Leadership; Time Management; “Works well independently”; Editorial, analytical, writing skills
- Field Assistants = Mentoring, management
- Team Project = Interpersonal, teamwork skills
- Blog = Communication skills
- Experience working with diverse communities


AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CENTER FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

Negotiating an offer

- Conduct salary research - online, ask colleagues and mentors.
- “I am excited about this opportunity. I do have a question. What can we do to increase my starting salary?”
- Benefits, vacation time, start date
- Be enthusiastic
- Get it in writing before you accept

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CENTER FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

My Personal & Professional Priorities



AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CENTER FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

“Hiring is about potential, not experience”

Lean In by Sheryl Sandberg

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CENTER FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

Building a Career in Conservation

SCCS-NY 2017 Workshop
Oct 13, 2017
Kauffman Auditorium
American Museum of Natural History