Mr. Ethan Ashley Britz

Undergraduate degree (2018) : BSc Biodiversity and Conservation Biology (BCB)

Honours degree (2019) : Hons BCB (Germination responses of forage legume seeds in the genera *Medicago* and *Trifolium* to imposed water-limitation and temperature stress)

Masters (2020 – Current) : MSc BCB (Evaluating *Calobota sericea* as an alternative fodder crop for water-limited agro-ecosystems in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa)

Profile

I am 25-years old and I am currently a Masters Biodiversity and Conservation Biology student at the University of the Western Cape. I work in conjunction with the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) with a particular focus in ecology and eco-physiology. My current research entails a nutritional evaluation of *Calobota sericea*. I am a charismatic, adaptable individual with an interest in climate change and its environmental and commercial effect. Therefore, I have been doing research in food Production with the ARC.

Personal information

**DOB :** 12 Oct 1996

**ID number** : 9610125041084

**Nationality :** RSA

**Race :** Coloured

**Gender** : Male

**Home language :** English

**Additional language** : Afrikaans

**Dependants**  : Parents

**Marital Status** : Single

**Health** : Excellent

**Email address** : [3540409@myuwc.ac.za](mailto:3540409@myuwc.ac.za)

**Driver’s license :** Code B

**Education: (Year Completed)**

**Primary**  – Simonsberg Primary (2009)

**Secondary** – Western Cape Sports School (2014)

**Tertiary** – University of the Western Cape (2015-Current)

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

1. **Job title:** Research assistant (Agricultural Research Council – Animal Production Institute)

**Time period:** April 2017 – October 2018

**Job description:** Plant sample preparation and acid digestion for nutrient determination. Assisted in seed germination trials under different germination temperatures.

**Contact person:** Francuois Müller ([MullerF@arc.agric.za](mailto:MullerF@arc.agric.za); [francuoismuller@gmail.com](mailto:francuoismuller@gmail.com))

1. **Job title:** Research assistant (Cape Flats Nature Reserve)

**Time period:** 10 July – 01 August 2017

**Job description:** Applied fixed photography methods to monitor and analyse succession in an area subjected to fire and sorted the photos chronologically to develop a motion picture showing succession.

**Contact person:** Hestelle Melville **(**[hmelville@uwc.ac.za](mailto:hmelville@uwc.ac.za))

1. **Job title:** Laboratory Practical Demonstrator (University of the Western Cape)

**Time period:** March – May 2017

**Job description:** Assisting first year students with biology practicals in laboratories by explaining a specific process and the outcomes of it. Also marking their practical books and scientific reports, and correcting them in content, punctuation and grammar.

**Contact person:** Lorne Gelderbloem ([lgelderbloem@uwc.ac.za](mailto:lgelderbloem@uwc.ac.za)), Dawn Faroe ([dfaroe@uwc.ac.za](mailto:dfaroe@uwc.ac.za))

1. **Job title:** Waiter (Panarottis Cape Gate)

**Time period:** November 2016 – January 2019

**Job description:** Serving a customer’s desired dish and communicating with the customer to ensure a satisfying experience**.**

**Contact person:** Tanya Van Eden/ Donovan (021 981 538)

1. **Job title:** Practical assistant in soil research for SanParks

**Time period:** 26 March – June 2018

**Job description:** Performed acid digestions and filtrations on soil samples, and did chemical compound analyses on each sample using the Kjeldahl-N method and methods proposed by Van Soest et al., (1991).

**Contact person:** Francuois Müller ([MullerF@arc.agric.za](mailto:MullerF@arc.agric.za); [francuoismuller@gmail.com](mailto:francuoismuller@gmail.com))

1. **Job title:** General worker in UWC Science laboratories

**Time period:** 30 April – October 2018

**Job description:** Assisted in chemical disposal, and cleaning laboratory utensils and scientific equipment. As well as assisting in making requested chemical solutions for first-year science practicals.

**Contact person:** Lorne Gelderbloem ([lgelderbloem@uwc.ac.za](mailto:lgelderbloem@uwc.ac.za)); Dawn Faroe ([dfaroe@uwc.ac.za](mailto:dfaroe@uwc.ac.za))

1. **Job title:** Promoter at Redmond Promotions

**Time period:** January - April 2018

**Job description:** Promoting designated food products to customers in Checkers, Woolworths, or Spar stores by attracting them to the product through visual and verbal presentation.

**Contact person:** Julia Fourie ([julia@redmondsales.co.za](mailto:julia@redmondsales.co.za))

1. **Job title:** Research assistant for the Agricultural Research Council (ARC), Rockies Institute, and SanParks

**Time period:** June - July 2018

**Job description:** Interviewed the Kuboes community (one of the remaining villages of the Nama tribe) in the Northern Cape, South Africa to better understand the socioeconomic effects of climate change on individuals in the community. We looked at their social, human and financial capital to estimate how the community was adapting. I mentored a few students from the community involving them in interviews and assessments, including relaying the necessary methodology and approach to get the most accurate information from interviewees.

**Contact person:** Gerren de Wet – Agriculturalist (0623112190, [dewetgerren@gmail.com](mailto:dewetgerren@gmail.com)), Karl Van Orsdol ([Karl@rockiesinstitute.ca](mailto:Karl@rockiesinstitute.ca)), Clement Cupido (clementfcupido@gmail.com)

1. **Job title:** Agricultural sales and research assistant underSANSOR for AGT foods

**Time period:** 24 – 29 November 2019

**Job description:** Accompanied experts in forage crops to various research and commercial farms in the Eastern Cape, South Africa to observe the use of forage crops in crop rotations, the effect that nutritive value of the crops has dairy production and the process of advertising, consulting and selling different forage crops (such as Lucerne, Ryegrasses, etc.).

**Contact person:** Dirk Coetzee (DCoetzee@agtfoods.co.za), Magdeleen Cilliers ([projects@sansor.co.za](mailto:projects@sansor.co.za))

1. **Job title:** Poster presenter and organising committee assist and at the Arid Zone Ecology Forum (AZEF) conference

**Time period:** 16 – 18 October 2018

**Job description:**

Responsibilities included:

* Assisting the organizing committee and congress administrator with timing presentations, setting up the venues and setting up the poster presentations
* Doing a poster presentation and being a timer for other presentations.

**Contact person:** Gill Murray (gill@azef.co.za),Clement Cupido ([clementfcupido@gmail.com](mailto:clementfcupido@gmail.com))

1. **Job title:** Poster presenter and organising committee assist and at the Grassland Society of Southern Africa (GSSA) conference

**Time period:** 1 – 4 July 2019

**Job description:**

Responsibilities included:

* Assisting the organizing committee and congress administrator with timing presentations, setting up the venues and setting up the poster presentations
* Attending a research skills workshop (R for Biologists) using the R statistical software
* Doing a poster presentation (I won the award for best proposal poster presentation)

**Contact person:** Erica Joubert (info@grassland.org.za),Clement Cupido ([clementfcupido@gmail.com](mailto:clementfcupido@gmail.com))

1. **Job title:** Rangeland intern for DAFF and ARC

**Time period:** December 2019 – April 2020

**Job description:**

Responsibilities included:

* participating in planning and coordinating field trips;
* conducting veld condition assessment in various biomes of South Africa
* data capturing
* participating in the successful transfer of scientific technology i.e. compilation of reports, oral and poster presentations
* pro-actively providing technical input within the context of the research project/s
* to contribute to research by rendering desired support to research staff and to optimize the utilization of resources in the most cost effective and efficient manner
* To utilize and maintain facilities, apparatus and equipment;
* To comply with the Occupational Health and Safety policies and procedures.
* Knowledge on maintenance of equipment and infrastructure needed for research
* Understanding of basic principles of research
* Verbal and written communication skills
* Specific responsibility: Grass identification.

Clement Cupido ([clementfcupido@gmail.com](mailto:clementfcupido@gmail.com)); Francuois Müller ([MullerF@arc.agric.za](mailto:MullerF@arc.agric.za); [francuoismuller@gmail.com](mailto:francuoismuller@gmail.com))

1. **Job title:** Research assistant

**Time period:** August – November 2019

**Job description:** Assisting a Masters student assessing the different dormancy-breaking methods on species of *Acacia* and *Prosopis*. This included germinating seeds after boiling or scarifying under different temperature and osmotic conditions.

**Contact person:** Whitney Engelbrecht ([3338519@myuwc.ac.za](mailto:3338519@myuwc.ac.za))

1. **Job title:** Honours student supervisor

**Time period:** January – current 2021

**Job description:** Seed germination of Brachiaria grass species under different temperature and osmotic stress conditions

**Contact person:** Jabulile Esther Leroko (jabuleroko@gmail.com)

**Achievements and community involvement**

* Best proposal poster presentation at the Grassland Society of Southern Africa conference (2019)
* Western Province and Western Cape Athletics Team (2009-2012)
* Selected to be part of the Representative Council of Learners (2011-2013)
* Chairman of the Representative Council of Learners (2012-2013)
* Prefect, Deputy Head-boy (2014)
* School Governing Body member representing learners (2013-2014)
* Captain of the athletics team in 2014
* Runners-up (playing for Two Oceans soccer academy) in the Glenville soccer tournament in Port Elizabeth (2014-2015)
* Player of the year and Player in the team of the year at Northpine United FC (2018)
* Helped as assistant coach in Kellogg’s 48hr Sports Challenge (2013)
* Was part of a Debating team for Project Citizen in Parliament (2014)