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Personal Statement

Seeking a position at the expiration of my term with Americorps that will allow me to maximize my 10+ years of experience in science communication and mentoring in order to connect environmental policy and research with the communities and people they affect.

Education

Drexel University: Pennoni Honors College

Philadelphia, PA

B.S. Environmental Science - Cum Laude

2013 - 2018

Relevant Courses: Biogeography, Biodiversity, Conservation Biology, Phylogenetic Analysis, Physical Geology, Earth System Processes, GIS & Environmental Modeling, Scientific Data Analysis, Statistics and Probability, Community Mobilization and Advocacy, American Political Thought, Systems Approach to Global Challenges

Continuing education and certificates

Nonprofit Board Prep Program, Young Involved Philadelphia (YIP)

Philadelphia, PA (2018)

· Rebuilding Native Nations, University of Arizona: Native Nations Institute

Tuscon, AZ (2017)

Work Experience

Honeycomb Salon Co-Founder

Wheeling, WV

Jan 2019 - Present

Purchased a 23-year-old hair and nail salon and reopened as Honeycomb Salon with my wife and co-founder.

- Transitioned from established brand to new business without losing customers; grew revenue 20% in first 6 months
- Managed inventory of 200+ products for sale; maintain relationships with 900+ customers

Carnegie Science Center: Center for STEM Education and Career Development Americorps VISTA for Development

Pittsburgh, PA

Sep 2018 - Present

First Americorps VISTA hire at Fab Lab makerspace facility within Carnegie Science Center. Supervised flagship youth mentoring program and doubled enrollment to 40 participants year over year.

- Authored guidebook on one-year timeline to introduce first-of-its-kind mentoring program to global Fab Lab network
- · Evaluated success of mentoring program through interviews and informal conversations with participants
- Recognized nationally as "Most Innovative Maker-Centered Learning Program of the Year" by US2020 and Citizen Schools

White House Office of Science and Technology Policy: U.S. Global Change Research Program Washington, DC Truman Scholarship Summer Institute Intern (Chris Avery, PhD.)

Jun - Jul 2018

Recognized for exemplary contributions towards the publication of Volume II of the 4th National Climate Assessment, an inter-agency effort coordinated by the White House to identify and explain the risks of climate change to policymakers.

- Liaised with team of lead authors of each of 30+ chapters to draft imagery requirements for Volume II
- Recommended portfolio of publicly available images by agreed to deadline for each of 30+ chapters in Volume II

Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University

Philadelphia, PA

+ Curatorial Assistant for Vertebrate Paleontology (Ted Daeschler, PhD.)

Dec 2013 - Dec 2017

+ Biodiversity Informatics Research CO-OP (Steve Dilliplane)

Mar - Sep 2016

+ Geographic Information System (GIS) Research CO-OP (Jerry Mead, PhD.)

Mar - Sep 2015

- Spearheaded modernization of digital vertebrate paleontology database, doubling size by cataloging 9000+ new records
- · Invented automated processes to combine databases from 6 departments that each use different Symbiota, Microsoft Excel, and FileMaker Pro databases
- Visualized snail biodiversity for 600+ sampled locations in Jamaica using ArcGIS, QGIS, and R

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NOAA: National Centers for Environmental Information NOAA Hollings Scholarship Intern (Chris Amante, PhD.)

Boulder, CO Jun - Aug 2017

· Completed a standardized global model of elevation at improved 30 arc-second resolution using ArcGIS

Drexel University: Office of Undergraduate Research Students Tackling Advanced Research (STAR) Scholar (Daniel Duran, PhD.) Philadelphia, PA Jun - Aug 2014

· Forecasted range expansion due to climate change of invasive crayfish using MaxEnt

Volunteer Experience

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community Center English for Speakers of Other Languages Instructor

Philadelphia, PA 2018

Taught 15+ adult learners for 2 hours per week in immigrant community of 3 main non-English languages

GEAR UP: Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs Drexel Community Scholar for After-School Learning

Philadelphia, PA June 2016 - June 2018

Instructed 50+ students in 9th and 10th grade science classrooms

- Directed and trained a team of Drexel student volunteers to arrange after-school STEM activities for 30+ students in 3rd and 4th grade
- Invited to be a guest lecturer in 5th grade science classroom

Drexel University: College of Arts and Science Contributing Instructor for Community Based Learning Curriculum

Philadelphia, PA

2014 - 2015

· Created a new community-based learning course for 18 students at Drexel University

Oglebay Good Zoo Wheeling, WV Educator 2008 - 2013

Directed educational activities including summer camps for 4 to 6-year-old children for 40 hours per week

Awards and Grants

Drexel University Fellowships Graduation Award (\$1,000)	2018
James C. Gaither Junior Fellows program university nominee	2018
Harry S. Truman Scholarship (\$30,000+)	2017
Morris K. and Stewart L. Udall Scholarship (\$7,000)	2017
Society for Science and the Public Advocacy Grant (\$3,000)	2017
Drexel University Arcadia Grant (\$3,000)	2017
NOAA Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship (\$26,000+)	2016
Drexel University ExCITe Center Seed Fund Research Grant (\$5,000)	2016
Drexel University Steinbright Corporate Partners Grant (\$4,000)	2016
Intel (now Regeneron) Science Talent Search by Society for Science and the Public National Finalist	2013

Publications

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^{3 -} Amante, C., V. O'Leary (TBD), GLOBATO: An enhanced global relief model at 30 arc-seconds resolution. *Report in preparation for publication by NOAA.*

^{2 -} Seltmann, K., S. Lafia, D. Paul, ... **V. O'Leary,** *et al.* (2018), Georeferencing for Research Use (GRU): An integrated geospatial training paradigm for biocollections researchers and data providers. Research Ideas and Outcomes 4: e32449. 1 - USGCRP (2018), Impacts, Risks, and Adaptation in the United States: Fourth National Climate Assessment, Volume II [Reidmiller, D.R., C.W. Avery, *et al.* (eds.)]. U.S. Global Change Research Program, Washington, DC, USA, 1515 pp.

Oral Presentations

- 11 **O'Leary, V**. (2018), How to create a new map of the world. Presented at Week of Undergraduate Excellence, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA, 14-18 May.
- 10 O'Leary, V., C. Amante (2018), GLOBATO: An enhanced global relief model at 30 arc-seconds resolution. Presented at Student Conference on Global Challenges, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA, 1 Mar.
- 9 **O'Leary, V.**, C. Amante (2017), GLOBATO: An enhanced global relief model at 30 arc-seconds resolution. Presented at Science and Education Symposium, NOAA, Silver Springs, MD, 1-3 Aug.
- 8 Shirey, V., V. O'Leary, S. Dilliplane (2017), More Than a Map: Adventures in Biodiversity Informatics Visualization. Presented at 2017 Annual Meeting, SPNHC, Denver, CO, 18-24, Jun.
- 7 **O'Leary, V** (2017), Digitization of the ANSP Vertebrate Paleontology collections. Presented at Week of Undergraduate Excellence, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA, 1-5 May.
- 6 **O'Leary, V** (2017), Building Communities around a Shared River. Presented at Week of Undergraduate Excellence, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA, 1-5 May.
- 5 **O'Leary, V** (2017), From Online to On the River: Opportunities for Data Storytelling. Presented at River Research Seminar, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, 28 Apr.
- 4 **O'Leary, V.**, M. Sei, G. Rosenberg and J. Mead (2016), Modeling species distributions of landsnail biodiversity. Presented at National Conference on Undergraduate Research, University of North Carolina, Asheville, NC, 7-9, Apr.
- 3 **O'Leary, V.**, M. Sei, G. Rosenberg and J. Mead (2016), Describing multivariate relationships and spatial distributions of snail biodiversity in Jamaica. Presented at BEES Research Day, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA, 10 Mar.
- 2 **O'Leary, V.**, T. Daeschler (2016), Building an urban ecology curriculum along the Schuylkill River walking trail. Presented at Student Conference on Global Challenges, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA, 25 Feb.
- 1 **O'Leary, V** (2016), 1 Footpath, 100 Stories: Climate change and the importance of "talking science". Presented twice at Undergraduate Research Nerd Night, Drexel University.

Poster Presentations

- 8 **O'Leary, V.**, C. Amante (2017), GLOBATO: An enhanced global relief model at 30 arc-seconds resolution. Abstract OS31C-1412 presented at 2017 Fall Meeting, AGU, New Orleans, LA, 11-15 Dec.
- 7 *(declined)* **O'Leary, V.**, V. Shirey, and S. Dilliplane (2017), Connecting natural history collections to their historical context and telling those stories to a global online audience. Annual Meeting, ESA, Portland, OR, 6-11 Aug.
- 6 Shirey, V., V. O'Leary, and S. Dilliplane (2017), Big Data Opportunities in Ecological and Biodiversity Informatics: A Functional Trait Perspective. Presented at Digital Data in Biodiversity Research Conference, iDigBio, Ann Arbor, MI, 5-6 Jun.
- 5 O'Leary, V., M. Sei, G. Rosenberg and J. Mead (2016), Describing multivariate relationships and spatial distributions of snail biodiversity in Jamaica. Presented at Stanford Research Conference, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, 15-17 Apr.
- 4 Raphelson, M., **V. O'Leary**, A. Adams, K. Luckenbill and T. Daeschler (2016), Student projects using digital imaging techniques in Vertebrate Paleontology to capture new details of Late Devonian-age fossils. Presented at BEES Research Day, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA, 10 Mar.
- 3 **O'Leary, V.**, M. Sei, G. Rosenberg and J. Mead (2016), Describing multivariate relationships and spatial distributions of snail biodiversity in Jamaica. Presented at National Collegiate Research Conference, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, 21-23 Jan.
- 2 **O'Leary, V.**, D. Duran (2014), Niche Modeling for Management of Invasive Crayfish. Presented at STAR Scholars Summer Showcase, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA, 27 Aug.
- 1 **O'Leary, V.**, Z. Loughman (2014), A Multi-Year Analysis of *Orconectid* Crayfish Invasion Dynamics in West Virginia Utilizing Laboratory and Field Methodologies. Presented at COAS Research Days, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA, 17-18 Feb.

Additional

Interpersonal Skills - Public speaking, Technical presentations, Program/processes documentation, Meeting planning, Formal and informal youth education, Curriculum development, Event planning, Community outreach, Stakeholder engagement, Project management, Technical writing, Remote working

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Computer Skills - Proficient at Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), Outlook email, FileMaker Pro, Markdown (this resume's source); Intermediate at HTML/CSS, SQL, Git/GitHub, LaTeX, ArcGIS/QGIS; Learning R, Python, Swift

Field and Lab Skills - Managing lab notebooks, Titration, Filtration, RTK/PPK and laser level surveying, Open channel hydraulic surveys, Backpack electrofishing, Radio-telemetry, Scanning electron (SEM) and petrographic microscopy, Statistical data analysis

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