

# ANNA KURTIN

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## EDUCATION

**The University of Texas at Austin**, Austin, TX

May 2021

*Bachelor of Science in Biology*

Concentration in Ecology, Evolution, and Animal Behavior; GPA 4.0/4.0

Minor in Primatology

Distinguished College Scholar

## EXPERIENCE

**Writing Tutor, UT Intercollegiate Athletics**

January 2020 – Present

- Attend monthly training sessions detailing how to work with students of varying abilities and learning strategies
- Lead walk-in tutoring hours
- Cultivate relationships with student athletes to assist them with writing projects

**Volunteer, La Selva Biological Research Station (Costa Rica)**

December 2019

- Digitized herbarium collections based on instructions given solely in Spanish
- Assisted in fieldwork and data collection for Proyecto Plántulas and Proyecto Verano in primary forest and secondary forest, including restored agricultural landscape

**Wildlife Rehabilitation Intern, Kids Saving the Rainforest (Costa Rica)**

September 2019 – December 2019

- Collected and analyzed pre- and post-release behavioral data on endemic Costa Rican wildlife
- Lead ecotourism tours and explained to international and local visitors information on the biology of tropical forests and their endemic wildlife and laid out the importance of conservation
- Assisted with clinical procedures, wildlife training, and captive animal husbandry with team of veterinary staff
- Received basic veterinary training focusing on how to stabilize wild animals in critical condition
- Published various social media posts on Instagram and Facebook to an audience of 10,500 followers
- Spoke as a guest on weekly local charity segment of Radio Dos 99.5 FM

**Research Student, Freshman Research Initiative**

January 2018-Present

- Received instruction into basic lab and insect collection techniques from faculty at the University of Texas to study the interactions of gut bacteria with their host organisms
- Designed an independent research project investigating the interaction between temperament variation and individual fitness in *Polistes* paper wasps
- Wrote up a complete research paper about project and results
- Presented results of research project at the CNS Undergraduate Research Forum in April 2019

**Undergraduate Research Assistant, Primate Molecular Ecology and Evolution Lab**

January 2019 – Present

- Processed acoustic and behavioral data on vocalizations of the red-crowned titi monkey using bioacoustics software
- Independently conducting independent research project investigating Venezuelan red howler monkey vocalizations
- Participated in lab meetings discussing relevant topics in the field and community outreach events
- Created an excel database to categorize definitions of acoustic terms commonly used in scientific literature

**Undergraduate Research Assistant, Fish Lab of Dr. Mike Ryan**

May 2019 – August 2019

- Responsible for fish husbandry, including basic tank maintenance and evaluation of fish condition
- Precisely followed instructions to carry out behavioral assays and video analysis to determine the effect of brain lateralization on social learning in asexual and sexual species of fish
- Attended field collection expeditions and successfully aided in the collection of lab subjects

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## ACTIVITIES & LEADERSHIP

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### President and Founder, Texas EEB

January 2020-Present

- Recruited an officer team of 8 fellow students to create a new organization for ecology, evolution, and behavior
- Grew interest through GroupMe of 84 students and grew weekly club meeting attendance to 38 students
- Navigated initiating a partnership with the University of Texas Integrative Biology Department and facilitated partnerships with four faculty members
- Stewarded discussion meeting among members about degree plan redesign and provided feedback to curriculum redesign faculty committee

### Vice President, Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society

January 2018 – Present

- Responsible for coordinating and organizing club speakers as well as assisting the president in arranging biweekly meetings
- Participated in biweekly meetings of the Kappa Upsilon chapter of Beta Beta Beta, a national honor society with 670 chapters throughout the U.S.
- Involved in outreach events and volunteered at various events, including the UT Sustainability Initiative

## SKILLS

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**Technical /Computer Skills:** Proficient in radio telemetry, Raven, Audacity, Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Windows 7, 8, 10, R statistical software, and basic Python

**Languages:** Beginning conversational, reading, and written Spanish comprehension

**Personal skills:** independent and team work, leadership, public communication

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

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### Evaluation of Best Management Practices, Texas Parks and Wildlife

- Conducted a thorough literature review of existing best management practices
- Evaluated current best management practices and government recommendations for mitigation
- Attended biweekly meetings with project manager, the State Herpetologist of Texas

### Environmental Enrichment in Captive Kinkajous, Kids Saving the Rainforest

- Designed project based on existing gaps in knowledge of captive care of procyonids and existing scientific literature
- Implemented camera trap monitoring plan independently
- Compiled final data and presented to organization administration and fellow interns
- Recommended changes to enrichment schedule, which were accepted and implemented by zookeeper staff

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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- UT College of Natural Sciences Distinguished College Scholar, 2020
- Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Achievement Scholarship, 2020
- Eva Stevenson Woods Endowed Presidential Scholarship, 2020
- UT College of Natural Sciences Research Fellowship, Summer 2018