Hello, my name is Lexie Schwartz. Ever since I can remember, my favorite animal has been a cheetah. I have always had a passion for animals and nature. As a kid I would read books about animals for fun and I have known from a very young age that as an adult I wanted to help animals and the environment, especially cheetahs. When I was 5 years old, I checked out a book from the library about cheetahs. Inside it introduced me to the Cheetah Conservation Fund and the work that Dr. Laurie Marker has done for cheetahs. Since that day it has been my dream to go to Africa and work with cheetahs.

I knew I wanted to turn my passion for animals and the environment into a career. I am a junior at Iowa State majoring in animal ecology. It is my second year, but I took college classes in high school so I have enough credits to be a junior. I am very interested in working with wildlife, and I have my heart set on doing conservation work. As a second-year college student, I haven’t had much relevant work experience, but I volunteered at the Minnesota Zoo as a zoo teen in the summers of 2013-2018. I was a teaching assistant at the summer camps held at the zoo, where I helped teach kids about animals and the environment. I really enjoyed spreading my passion to others and getting kids to care about the amazing natural world around them.

From the classes I have taken in college so far, I have gained statistical skills to work with research data. I have also gained the skill of conducting research-setting up the experiment, collecting data, and reaching conclusions. I also have experience working in teams, in my ecology class we went out in the field and worked with others to conduct experiments and collect data. I have some photography and videography skills as well. It is a hobby of mine that I enjoy, and I am a photographer for my school paper.

I believe that I would be an asset to your program. This internship would provide me with a unique opportunity to assist your organization and to expand my knowledge and skills.