

PROFILE

Highly qualified and tenacious professional armed with broad-based background and skills in the areas of forest service research, field work, land inventory management, data & specimen collection, cost estimation, record keeping, species composition and many more. Seeking an opportunity to pursue a career where I can apply my knowledge while enriching my professional skills in the environmental field. Determined to implement earned skills and knowledge for the rapid growth of the prospective organization by working effectively and consistently.

EXPERTISE AND QUALIFICATIONS

- Detailed Biological Scientist who is able to do field work as well as accurate lab work.
- Demonstrated ability to work and perform at the highest standards in complex and demanding environments.
- Skilled in gathering data and keeping detailed records.
- Advance-level knowledge of ArcGIS software.
- Following established procedures in gathering and documenting information.
- Flexible to change with excellent planning and execution skills and works well within the constraints of tight deadlines.
- Strong communication skills contributing to effective working relationships with colleagues and people.

EDUCATION

MS. Natural Resources- Ecology Restoration | NC State University, Raleigh, North Carolina **Aug. 2013-May 2016**
Thesis: Assessment potential for vegetable gardens in elementary schools across a tropical urban watershed in Puerto Rico. Perform soil quality evaluation and conduct social surveys preference to determine the feasibility of creating and sustaining vegetable gardens in the elementary public schools of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

BS. Environmental Science | University of Puerto Rico- Rio Piedras Campus, San Juan, Puerto Rico **Aug. 2006-June 2012**

WORK EXPERIENCE

University of Puerto Rico | Laboratory Technician **Sep. 2012-Aug. 2013**

Key Responsibilities and Achievements:

- Responsible for data compilation, storage and management of ecological data.
- Supervise and delegate work for research project "Natural-Human Systems in the Urbanizing Tropics" conducting surveys and planning data management.
- Maintain and operate standard laboratory equipment.

CENTER FOR APPLIED TROPICAL Ecology Conservation (CRES-CATES) **Jan. 2012-Aug. 2012**

Key Responsibilities and Achievements:

- Responsible for creating a data base, identifying plant species, analyzing, prepare presentations and writing an article for vegetation description of the households.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Geo-Internship Program Research, Fajardo, Puerto Rico **Aug. 2011-Jan. 2012**

Research experience in Atmospheric Science

Project title: Aerosol Optical Thickness in the Presence and Absence of African Dust using AERONET and Microtops II Sunphotometers

Urban Long Term Research Area (ULTRA), San Juan, Puerto Rico **Feb. 2011-Aug. 2011**

Project title: Plant diversity of Residential yard across the Rio Piedras watershed

Collaborate with ecological and social researchers in order to implement social and vegetation survey of households in the Rio Piedras watershed.

University of Notre Dame Environmental (UNDERC), Land O'Lakes, Wisconsin **May 2009-Aug. 2009**

Project Title: Do tadpoles move through all a pond, or do they restrict themselves to certain microhabitats?

Prepare and conduct research investigation with *Rana sylvatica* and analyze pattern movement in relation with: predators, vegetation density and water depth. Prepared and presented a oral presentation for UNDERC students and faculty

PUBLICATIONS

C. P. Vila-Ruiz*, E. Meléndez-Ackerman, R. Santiago-Bartolomei, D. Garcia-Montiel, Lourdes Lastra, C.E. Figuerola, and J. Fumero-Caban. 2014. Plant species richness and abundance of residential yards across a tropical watershed: implications for urban sustainability. *Ecology and Society*. 19(3):22.

Melendez-Ackerman, E. R. Santiago-Bartolomei, C. P. Vila-Ruiz*, L. Santiago, D. García-Montiel, J. Verdejo Ortiz, H. Manrique-Hernandez, E. Hernandez-Calo. 2014. Socio-economic drivers of yard sustainable practices in a tropical city. *Ecology and Society*. 19(3): 20.

Garcia-Montiel, D. C., J. C. Verdejo-Ortiz, R. Santiago-Bartolomei, C. P. Vila-Ruiz*, L. Santiago, and E. Melendez-Ackerman. 2014. Food sources and accessibility and waste disposal patterns across an urban tropical watershed: implications for the flow of materials and energy. *Ecology and Society*. 19(1):37.

PRESENTATIONS

Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting Portland Oregon- Puerto Rico **Aug. 2012**
Poster Presentation: Plant diversity of Residential yard across the Rio Piedras watershed.

American Geophysical Union (AGU) 2011 San Francisco, California **Dec. 2011**
Poster Presentation: Aerosol Optical Thickness in the Presence and Absence of African Dust using AERONET and Microtops II Sunphotometers.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

US-EPA San Juan, Puerto Rico **Mar. 2015**
Project titled: "Urban Soil Taxonomic Descriptions and Characterization of Soil Hydrologic Properties for Green Infrastructure Planning in Combined Sewer Overflow Communities".

- Assisted with gathering sampling permission for vacant lot and elementary schools of San Juan area.
- Helped in the measurements, samplings, and recording of field notes of hydrologic assessment sampling.

Plant Data Collection Mona Island, Puerto Rico **Apr. 2011**
Plant data collection (DBH and species number) for the annual plant census of the Mona Island project Puerto Rico.

GENERAL SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

- Achieving goals, creative/strategic thinking and problem solving.
- Excellent ethics, hardworking, focus minded and sound organizational ability.
- Possesses a positive, mature and professional attitude. Excellent sense of initiative, tidiness, adaptability and networking. Ability to communicate effectively and build relationships with colleagues.
- Able to handle multiple simultaneous priorities with tight deadlines without compromising effectiveness and quality.
- Excellent organization and time management skills demonstrated by ability to work both autonomously and as a positive team player. Detail and result oriented.

AVAILABILITY

- Immediately

REFERENCE:

- Stacy Nelson – Associate Professor North Carolina State University – stacy_nelson@ncsu.edu – 919-513-7162
- Elvia Meléndez – Full Professor University of Puerto Rico – elmelend@gmail.com – 787-760-0000 ext. 88197
- Theodore Shear – Associate Professor North Carolina State University – shear@ncsu.edu