

Taya Carothers

Environment and Society, PhD Student



I grew up in Indiana and have lived all over the US. I have a BA in International Studies and Spanish with a minor in Anthropology from the University of Southern Indiana. I have two Master's degrees because of a unique program that incorporated two universities and two different degree programs. I have an MA from American University in International Affairs and an MA from the United Nations University for Peace in Natural Resources and Sustainable Development. My research and interests prior to coming to USU were mostly based in Latin America, and I had a couple of internships (Conservation International and the Costa Rican Legislative Assembly) to help cement that research. My Master's thesis was about global water

governance with a case study in Costa Rica. After my Master's, I moved to Idaho to work at the University of Idaho as an international student advisor. I then became the associate director of international programs at Lewis-Clark State College in Idaho where I managed a 10-person office. I oversaw a lot of hiring processes and, unfortunately, had to dismiss two people as well. Currently, I am working on a large NSF grant called iUtah, and I am conducting community-based research in the west side of Salt Lake City around the Jordan River corridor. I'm a social scientist and am developing research questions related to water issues and local water governance in Salt Lake City alongside key community members.

Taya's Areas of Specialty

1. Advice on looking for graduate programs
2. General advice on picking a graduate program
3. Help with first contacting potential advisors
4. Advice on how to prepare for and what to expect from grad school
5. Help preparing and editing CVs and resumes.
6. Advice on interview skills
7. Mock presentations or interviews

Contact me!

taya.carothers@aggiemail.usu.edu

Liz Cook

Geography, MS Student



I received a BA in Anthropology from the University of Texas in San Antonio. I completed qualitative (ethnographic) undergraduate research on the Steampunk subculture in parts of Texas and have assisted in evaluating the San Antonio Zoological Society's conservation and education efforts. If you want to know more about types of qualitative research, I have experience with surveys, participant observations, ethnographic work, semi-structured interviews, and animal (primate) behavior observations. For 2 years I worked at a university interviewing, evaluating, and hiring students for various positions, so I don't mind helping with resumes and interview skills. Currently, I am part of the Climate Adaptation Science Traineeship Program at USU and pursuing my MS in Geography with Dr. Claudia Radel in the ENVS department. I am interested in human geography with issues revolving around climate science and tourism.

Liz's Areas of Specialty

1. Advice on looking for grad programs
2. Help with editing personal statements for graduate programs
3. Advice on picking a graduate program
4. Help with contacting potential advisors
5. Advice on how to prepare for and what to expect from grad school
6. Help with preparing and editing CVs and resumes
7. Advice on interview skills
8. Help with mock presentations
9. Advice on seeking alternative careers

Contact me!

liz.cook@aggiemail.usu.edu

Lauren Nicole Dupey

Environment and Society, PhD Student



I'm a Wisconsin native who ventured to the U.P. of Michigan (Eh!) to complete my B.S. in Psychology/Environmental Studies at Michigan Tech, and onward to North Carolina for my M.S. in Forestry/Interdisciplinary Studies. I love waterfowl and upland bird hunting, fishing on the great lakes, hiking, camping, backpacking and nordic skiing. My research interests lay in the intersection of psychology and forestry, and am currently working to incorporate geospatial data (via GIS) and fire behavior modeling into my research. Broadly, my dissertation research uses social science to study community-level risk perceptions and decision making, understand how fire-behavior modeling and GIS can influence perceptions and decision making, and compare these cognitions/behaviors for different groups of fire-prone communities under different fire scenarios. I have studied a range of topics within 'Social Forestry' including: social norms

and decisions of forest landowners; preferred forest management strategies, perceptions of, and economic impacts on cellulosic ethanol potential; and viability of carbon markets for forest landowners.

Lauren's Areas of Specialty

1. Advice on looking for graduate programs
2. Help editing personal statements for graduate programs
3. General advice on picking a graduate program
4. Help with first contacting potential advisors
5. Advice on how to prepare for and what to expect from grad school
6. Help preparing and editing CVs
7. Mock presentations or interviews
8. Being awesome, but not as awesome as Mitchell Donovan.

Contact me!

Lndupey@aggiemail.usu.edu

Riana Gayle

Ecology, MS Student



Greetings! My name is Riana and I'm a first year master's student in the Department of Environment and Society here at USU. I'm originally from Charlotte, NC and some of the things I enjoy include hiking, camping, and kayaking. I received my BS in Natural Resources from North Carolina State University with a concentration in policy and administration and a minor in environmental science. During my undergraduate studies, I was exposed to citizen science and public outreach projects while interning at the NC Museum of Natural Science. That experience, as well as my year spent working with Americorps around the nation's southwest region, has guided my current research to include modeling and measuring the perceptions of various stakeholders in today's 'hot' topics. Specifics include, climate change,

sustainability, natural resource management, extreme weather events and human behavioral ecology. I am currently working in the Institute of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism under the advisement of Dr. Baggio and Dr. Smith.

Riana's Areas of Specialty

1. Advice on looking for graduate programs
2. Advice on picking a graduate program
3. Advice on how to prepare for and what to expect from grad school
4. Advice on interview skills
5. Help with mock presentations or interviews
6. Advice on seeking alternative careers (Americorps, Peace Corps, Conservation Corps, etc.)
7. Advice on looking for summer/post-graduation internships
8. Food

Contact me!

riana.gayle@aggiemail.usu.edu