Michelle Opela

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Education	**Cornell University**, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Ithaca, NY • GPA 3.0	2010-2013

Cornell University, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Ithaca, NY • GPA 3.0 — 2010-2013
Bachelor of Science in Biology, Concentration in Marine Science
Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY • GPA 3.75 — 2011
Onondaga Community College, Syracuse, NY • GPA 4.0 — 2009-2010
Deans List, Phi Theta Kappa

Relevant Coursework

Genetics • Organic Chemistry• Biochemistry• Microbiology • Calculus • Statistics • Marine Biology
Ecology and the Environment • Public Speaking • Entomology • Practical Oceanography • Physics
Marine Ecology • Field Ornithology • Horticulture

Research Experience

CORNELL UNIVERSITY, Ithaca, NY — 2011-2013
Research Assistant, Guterman Bioclimatic Research Greenhouse Complex
Conducted genetic crosses on watermelon species. Ongoing project project analyzing lycopene content in the development of a new marketable product.

SEA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, Woods Hole, MA — Fall 2012
Student Researcher, Ocean Exploration Program
Spent 6 weeks at sea. Wrote paper on the distribution and age of pelagic *Sargassum.* Investigated species distribution and age percentages from 30 - 15 ° North with open ocean deployments and wet lab.

SHOALS MARINE LAB, Appledore Island, ME — Summer 2012
Student Researcher, Field Ornithology
Researched gender-based differences in nesting Herring Gull populations. Designed procedure, analyzed data using multivariate statistics and presented results to peers and scientists.

Skills / Certifications

Laboratory: Aseptic technique, TLC testing, IR spectrophotometry, chromatography, centrifuge, light microscope, winkler titration, column chromatography, media preparation, autoclave
Computer: Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, MiniTAB, Adobe lightroom, Adobe Photoshop
Other: Public speaking, fluent in Portuguese, SCUBA certified, sailing and navigation
Scientific Deployments: CTD, carousel, plankton nets, Mclane pump, neuston tow, secchi disk, hydrowinch, chirp subbottom profiler, acoustic doppler current profiler
Nursery/Greenhouse: TMV/ quarantine protocol, autoclave, pollination, transplantation, preparation of seeds, cuttings, preparing fertilizer solutions, pest identification, plant propagation, Dosatron

Experience

North Pacific Groundfish Observer — July 2013-November 2013
NOAA Fisheries Service & Saltwater Inc. — Seattle, WA
Acted as liaison between catcher vessel and NOAA. Sampled hauls for species composition and collected biological specimens as necessary. Documented any potential violations and addressed concerns to crew. Monitored for marine mammal and seabird interactions.

Greenhouse Assistant — 2011-2013
Cornell University Greenhouses — Ithaca, NY
Cared for plants: pollination, soil preparation, transplants, prepared seeds, monitored for pests, watered. Maintained facilities: inventory, waste disposal, and general cleanliness and organization of areas.

Landscaper — Summer 2010 & 2011
Best Western Syracuse Airport Inn — Syracuse, NY
Budgeted and implemented a complex landscape consisting primarily of tropical plants. Answered guest inquiries , installed an automatic feed irrigation system, changed water and soil chemistry as necessary.

Dining Assistant — 2010-2011
Cornell University Dining — Ithaca, NY
Assisted with food preparation and presentation. Answered student and guest inquiries.

Exchange Student — 2008-2009
Rotary International — Itaúna, Brazil
Adapted to Brazilian culture and traveled Northeast Brazil with 50 exchange students. Participated in volunteer programs working with impoverished primary schools in Rio de Janeiro. Was exposed to various marine rehabilitation programs.

Volunteer Experience

Dr. Peck Independent Consultant, Geneva, NY — Summer 2013
Research Assistant
Collected and analyzed soil cores for the presence of annual bluegrass weevil on golf course sites throughout the CNY region.