

ALLIE WEILL

SUMMARY

I am a fire ecologist and science communicator seeking opportunities in science outreach. I draw on my experiences in research and communication to produce thoughtful, nuanced science storytelling for a variety of audiences, with the overall goal of advancing science and conservation that enriches our world and serves society.

EDUCATION

University of California, Davis, Davis, CA

Ph.D., Ecology, November 2018

Dissertation: “From plants to people: living with fire in California’s fire-prone shrublands”

Certificate in Conservation Management, 2018

Awards: Spurr Award for Outreach, AAAS Mass Media Fellowship

University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

B.A., Biological Sciences with Honors and B.S., Geophysical Sciences, June 2011

Awards: University Scholarship, Award for Outstanding Thesis in Biology, College Honors

SCIENCE WRITING, TEACHING, & OUTREACH

U.S. Geological Survey Western Ecological Research Center, Sacramento, CA

Outreach Coordinator and Science Communicator.

March 2019 – Present

- Compile and disseminate weekly summary of science center research and events
- Write and design research summary handouts and posters for conferences and outreach events
- Write, edit, and design webpage content, online news stories, and social media posts about center research
- Collaborate with scientists to communicate their research to partners and the public
- Serve as a liaison to the Office of Communications and Publishing to promote center research

Merritt College, Oakland, CA

Part-Time Biology Instructor, Lichens of the Bay Area

March 2020 – Present

- Designed and taught a college-level lichen course for the Merritt College Natural History Program
- Converted a field and lab-based course into an online-only design under tight time constraints
- Created video recordings and used virtual tools including Canvas and Zoom to conduct an online course

KQED Science, San Francisco, CA

AAAS Mass Media Fellow

June – Aug. 2018

- Pitched, reported, and wrote science news articles for KQED Science website (clips available at <https://www.kqed.org/author/aweill>)
- Pitched and researched episodes for Deep Look nature video series and assisted with video production
- Received training in science journalism from the American Association for the Advancement of Science

Kids into Discovering Science Program, Lower Lake, CA

Lead Coordinator & Graduate Student Researcher

Sept. 2015 – June 2018

- Worked with undergraduate and graduate student volunteers and elementary school teachers to coordinate and present weekly classroom lessons and a field trip focused on plant biology, soil science, and the scientific method for 60-100 fifth grade students
- Developed and maintained web content and e-mail communications

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- Prepared and published 11-lesson curriculum in peer-reviewed online digital library
- Designed assessment materials and collected data on impact of outreach program on student learning and perceptions of diversity in science
- Applied for grants and prepared reports on program achievements for funders

Departments of Ecology and Evolution & Plant Sciences, University of California, Davis, CA

Teaching Assistant, Trees and Forests Sept.-Dec. 2017

- Lead weekly discussion sections focused on observing forest environments and tree functional traits

Teaching Assistant, Paleobotany Jan.-Mar. 2017

- Prepare and lead weekly 3-hour lab session focused on observing plant fossil specimens

Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Ecology Jan. - Mar. 2015 & 2016

- Prepare and lead four weekly 1-hour discussion sections
- Grade exams and weekly essay assignments for 40 students

California Phenology Project at Stebbins Reserve, Winters, CA

Program Coordinator Sept. 2015 – Dec. 2016

- Worked with volunteers to re-establish program infrastructure following fire

Founding Team Member Sept. 2013 – Aug. 2015

- Worked with a group of students and faculty to establish a new citizen science program for Stebbins Reserve
- Organized and co-led trainings for citizen scientists to monitor plants at a local reserve
- Wrote two successful grant applications to fund the continuation of the program
- Established and maintained website, blog, and social media accounts

Bio Boot Camp, Davis & Truckee, CA

Instructor for High School Camp June 2014 - 2016

- Supervise and instruct 10 high school students in a week of field ecology activities, including natural history hikes, individual research projects, and group research projects

RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION

Department of Plant Sciences, Davis, CA

Graduate Student Researcher March 2013 – June 2018

- Researched fire-adaptive plant traits in chaparral shrubs and hiker perceptions of wildfire
- Planned and conducted field research trips throughout California
- Wrote research proposals for degree program, grants, and fellowships
- Recruited, selected, and managed undergraduate field assistants and lab assistants
- Presented work at conferences in California and across the United States
- Wrote up results and prepared manuscripts for publication

Institute for the Study of Ecological and Evolutionary Climate Impacts, Davis, CA

Graduate Student Researcher June – Sept. 2015 & 2016

- Researched fire-adapted chaparral plants under changing fire regimes at a network of research reserves throughout the state of California
 - Worked with faculty, students, and staff in the institute to brainstorm future program directions
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TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Video and Audio: Adobe Premiere Pro, Audacity
- Social Media: Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Wordpress
- Graphic Design and Image Manipulation: Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign, ImageJ
- GIS: ArcGIS and QGIS
- Programming: R and Java