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EDUCATION:

Mississippi State University, Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture, Starkville, MS 39762
Degree: **Master of Science** in Wildlife and Fisheries Science, Expected August 2010
Emphasis: Human Dimensions of Natural Resources Management; GPA: 3.85/4.0
Research Interests: Gender differences of participation in outdoor activities; Motivations to participate in outdoor recreation; Substitution of recreational activities among minorities; Applying public wildlife values to natural resources management.

University of Florida, Department of Wildlife Ecology & Conservation, Gainesville, FL 32612
Degree: **Bachelor of Science** in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, May 2007
Emphasis: Wildlife Ecology; GPA: 3.42/4.0

CAREER RELATED COURSEWORK:

Master's Level:

Sociology of Gender, Statistical Methods, Human Dimensions of Wildlife Management, Wildlife Population Dynamics, Research Design, Techniques of Survey Research, Wildlife Habitat Management, Special Problems in Agricultural Policy.

Bachelor's Level:

Sustainable Ecotourism Development, Natural Resource Policy and Administration, Forest Ecology, Plant Ecology, Perspectives in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, Wildlife Issues in a Changing World, Wildlife Ecology and Management, Wildlife of Florida, Wildlife Techniques, Conservation Biology, Foundations of Geographic Information Systems.

OTHER COURSEWORK:

- BoatUS Foundation On-line Boating Safety Course (2006)
- Kayaking Skills and Safety Course (2004): Outdoor Adventure Program, Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska

CAREER RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE:

Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, & Aquaculture, Mississippi State University
Date: July 2007 – Present

Position: Graduate Research Assistant, Human Dimensions & Conservation Law Enforcement Laboratory
Duties: Assisted with the design and development of on-going laboratory research projects (Annual Hunter and Trapper surveys; State Agency Information and Education surveys). Collaborated with other professors, extension personnel, and Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks biologists in the College of Forest Resources on survey-related projects across ecological and social disciplines. Supervised five student workers.

School of Forest Resources & Conservation, University of Florida

Date: February 2007 – April 2007

Position: Undergraduate Research Technician, Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Management, Florida Scenic Trail and Ocala National Forest User Satisfaction Projects

Duties: Conducted in-person trail and off-road vehicle user-satisfaction surveys.

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE:

McDonald's, Fort Walton Beach, Florida and Gainesville, Florida

Date: June 2005 – August 2006

Position: Crew Member

Duties: Prepared and served food and maintained store cleanliness. Also supervised new crew members on food preparation and assembly.

SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES:

Professional:

Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Mentor

Date: November 1 – 4, 2009

Position: Student Mentor

Duties: Mentored an undergraduate student and provided information on applying to graduate school.

The Wildlife Society (TWS) Ad Hoc Certification Committee

Date: September 25 – Present

Position: Committee Member

Duties: Assessed perceptions of TWS certification members, agencies, and other clientele. Assessed the status of certification programs of other natural resource organizations. Evaluated the certification process. Conducted small-scale interviews of graduate students' perceptions and attitudes towards certification and produced reports. Contributed an overall perspective of the students to the committee. Collaborated with other committee members to make possible changes to certification application and process.

Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society (FLTWS)

Date: August 2006 – April 2007

Position: Executive Board Member

Duties: Developed a literature cited document about feral cats. Served as liaison to the University of Florida TWS. Voted on changes to FLTWS strategic plan. Attended summer board meetings, fall business meetings, and spring conferences to discuss current Florida wildlife topics.

Academic:

Resources for an Inclusive Future Minority Summer Camp Organizing Committee, Mississippi State University

Date: September 16, 2009 – Present

Position: Summer Camp Organizer

Duties: Carried out efforts to organize a 2-day minority student summer camp in conjunction with Yale University.

College of Forest Resources' Natural Resources Summer Camp Advisory Council, Mississippi State University

Date: June 15, 2009 – Present

Position: Counselor Representative

Duties: Attended follow up meetings upon completion of the summer camp to discuss costs and benefits. Planned activities and organized the logistics of the next year's camp.

Mississippi State University Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, & Aquaculture Graduate Student Representative

Date: May 15, 2009 – Present

Duties: Served as liaison between graduate students, the department head, faculty, and staff. Maintained a database of graduate student contact information. Served as a representative to the College of Forest Resources Dean's Council and kept graduate students abreast of college-level issues. Served as a representative to the Graduate Student Association and kept graduate students abreast of campus-level issues. Chaired the Nabi Award Committee and solicited nominations for it. Coordinated a semesterly meeting with the department head. Attended faculty meetings as invited and reported on graduate student concerns. Managed the recycling centers in the College of Forest Resources. Served on the department's awards committee.

Mississippi State University College of Forest Resources Diversity Council

Date: December 2008 – Present

Position: Graduate Representative

Duties: Representative of the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, & Aquaculture graduate students. Discuss diversity issues within the college with Dean George Hopper and carry out communication efforts in favor of workplace diversity.

Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Mississippi State University

Date: September 2007 – Present

Duties: Promoted stewardship of wildlife through science and education. Competed in the 2008 Southeastern Wildlife Conclave (participated in the essay contest and was on the Quiz Bowl team). Competed in the 2009 Southeastern Wildlife Conclave (participated in the essay contest and Quiz Bowl).

Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS), Mississippi State University

Date: September 2007 – Present

Position: Treasurer (2008 – Present), Public Relations Coordinator (2007 – 2008)

Duties: Performed financial duties and documented financial status. Supported under-represented individuals within the agricultural and natural resources fields. Carried out efforts in the communication process between the organization and the minority student body within agricultural and natural resources-related fields. Assisted in organizing the Regional Workshop hosted by MSU (October 2007). Assisted with the College of Forest Resources Science Club by connecting Starkville elementary school students with natural resources through various learning activities and field trips. Organized and participated in various fundraising, community service, and recruiting activities. Updated the chapter's website. Updated and produced display board.

Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society, University of Florida (UF TWS)

Date: August 2005 – April 2007

Positions: President (2006 – 2007), Vice President (2005 – 2006), Historian (2004 – 2005)

Duties: Promoted an appreciation of wildlife among students by starting a new bat interpretive program on UF campus and organizing an avian monitoring project in four Gainesville natural areas. Arranged educational meetings that provided networking and "hands-on" experiences with professionals. Planned and directed the UFTWS 23rd Annual Wild Game Dinner fundraiser: first Wild Game Dinner ever to raise over \$3,500. Created an illustrative scrapbook maintain record of activities that accomplished the award of "Best Organization Beyond the Local Level" from the Agricultural and Life Sciences College Council. Assisted in hosting the 2005 Southeastern Wildlife Conclave at the University of Florida (March 2005) by formulating questions for the Quiz Bowl, designing an obstacle course, and establishing team competition stations. Managed information booths about the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences during recruitment events.

Fraternity of Alpha Zeta, University of Florida

Date: April 2004 – April 2007

Positions: Sentinel (2005 – 2007), Fundraising Chair (2004 – 2005)

Duties: Responsible for organizing fundraising events: achieved highest-selling Valentines' Day Rose Sale with 50% profit in 2005. Acquired refreshments for meetings and created a donation request letter. Followed all duties of a Sergeant at Arms and participated in various service activities in Gainesville, FL.

Rumblin' Tumblin' Reptiles, Gator Gymnastics, University of Florida

Date: January 2005 – December 2006

Position: President

Duties: Organized the official student booster club of UF Gymnastics. Devised a marketing plan and supervised an Executive Committee to promote the team at the school and community levels. Recruited new members and increased student attendance to gymnastics meets by 33% in 2006.

Conservation Club at Choctawhatchee High School, Fort Walton Beach, Florida

Date: September 2001 – May 2002

Position: President

Duties: Created a school garden to produce organic vegetables, led bi-weekly meetings, and organized service events.

Community:

Starkville Science Club Mentoring

Date: May 29, 2009 – Present

Position: Minority student mentor

Duties: Mentored two minority students from Ward-Steward Elementary School. Provided the students positive guidance through various activities.

Sudduth Elementary School, Starkville, Mississippi

Date: April 15, 2009

Position: Teaching Assistant

Duties: Assisted a teaching volunteer with an educational presentation about wolves and other carnivores to kindergarten and 2nd Grade students.

Wood Magic Science Fair, Mississippi State University, Starkville, Mississippi

Date: November 17, 2008

Position: Student Supervisor

Duties: Supervised middle school students as they participated in various activities related to the science of wood production.

Natural Resources Summer Camp, Mississippi State University, Starkville, Mississippi

Date: June 1 – June 5 2008; June 7 – June 11, 2009

Position: Night Counselor

Duties: Supervised 26 middle school and high school students in the dormitory on campus and assisted in organizing and delivering evening activities.

The Medical Mashers girls soccer team (U-10), Playground Area Soccer Association, Shalimar, Florida

Date: August 2001 – December 2001

Position: Assistant Coach

Duties: Supervised practice drills and assisted in developing skill and team-building focus groups.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:

Academic:

Mississippi State University President's Commission on the Status of Minorities: Diversity Award Program

Date: February 25, 2009

Duties: Organized, set up, and cleaned up refreshments and supervised other volunteers.

Mississippi State University Department of Forest Products: Wood Magic Science Fair

Date: October 20, 2008

Duties: Supervised 30 Starkville Science Club elementary students as they participated in the fair.

Mississippi Wildlife Federation, Jackson, Mississippi
Date: August 3, 2007
Duties: Responsible for Big Buck Contest registration.

National Park Service, Cumberland Island, Georgia
Date: September 22 – 24, 2006
Duties: Surveyed bat species using mist-netting techniques and recorded data.

Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society, University of Florida (UF)
Date: January 2004 – December 2005
Duties: Assisted graduate student in conducting wildlife inventory on UF campus using various small mammal, meso-mammal, avian, and herpetofauna sampling and processing techniques (point-count, wildlife line transects, drift fences, dipnets, pitfall traps, mist-netting, Sherman live traps, radio-telemetry). Monitored wood duck, kestrel, and blue bird nest boxes at the Katharine-Ordway Preserve in Melrose, Florida.

Florida Wildlife Care, Inc. in Gainesville, Florida
Date: September 2004 – December 2004
Duties: Cared for three young, abandoned squirrels for preparation of releasing them back into the environment.

Community:

MVNU2MSU (Moving You to Mississippi State), Mississippi State, Mississippi
Date: August 9, 2008
Duties: Assisted new freshman and their families move boxes into their dorms and direct them around campus.

Climate Change Conference, Tampa, Florida
Date: May 9 – 11, 2007
Duties: Transcribed presentations for production of conference summary and recommendations to affect changes in the social aspect of climate change to the Florida Century Commission's overall strategic plan.

Alachua County School Volunteer Program, Westwood Middle School, Gainesville, Florida
Date: September 2006 – May 2007
Duties: Facilitated small group discussions on scholarly topics and tutored students. Other duties included whole class instruction and behavior monitoring.

Ms. B. Haven Sail Charters, Shalimar, Florida
Date: June 2005 – August 2005
Duties: Assisted in the restoration of a damaged sailboat.

Alachua County Juvenile Detention Center, Gainesville, Florida
Date: January 2003 – April 2003
Duties: Developed interactive activities for juvenile detainees.

Choctawhatchee Senior High School, Fort Walton Beach, Florida
Date: November 1998 – December 1998
Duties: Organized a Christmas caroling group, arranged practices, and performed carols at twelve houses of a chosen neighborhood.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:

Minorities in Natural Resources Committee (May 2009 – Present)

National Chapter of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (2008 – Present)

Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association (2008)

The Wildlife Society (2007 – Present)

PUBLICATIONS:

Title: “Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks”

By: Dr. Kevin M. Hunt and Vanessa Oquendo, Human Dimensions & Conservation Law Enforcement Laboratory, Forest & Wildlife Research Center, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS 39762-9690 (2007)

Published in the Mississippi Encyclopedia online housed by the University of Mississippi.

Hunt, K. M., V. C. Oquendo, S. F. Baker, and C. P. Hutt. 2008. Mississippi Trapper Harvest Estimates for the 1976-77 to the Present Trapping Seasons. Human Dimensions & Conservation Law Enforcement Laboratory Technical Document #HDCLEL-119. Forest & Wildlife Research Center, Mississippi State, MS. 61 pp.

PRESENTATIONS:

Oral

Cooperative Research Summit

Date: January 26, 2010

Title: “Results of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks Wildlife Bureau’s Information and Education Program Evaluation”

Authors: Oquendo, V.C., & Hunt, K.M.

Principles of Ecology and Conservation Course Lecture

Date: September 16, 2009

Title: “Human Dimensions of Wildlife Management”

Cooperative Research Summit

Date: January 27, 2009

Title: “Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks Wildlife Bureau’s Information and Education Program Evaluation”

Authors: Oquendo, V.C., & Hunt, K.M.

Plenary Session: Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference

Date: October 13, 2008

Title: “Diversity Outreach Partnerships”

Pathways to Success: Integrating Human Dimensions into Fish and Wildlife Management

Date: September 28, 2008

Title: “Exploring Possible Differences Between African American and Anglo Male Hunters in Mississippi”

Authors: Oquendo, V.C., Hunt, K.M., & Fuller, S.

Mississippi State University Graduate Student Association Symposium (2008)

Date: April 4, 2008

Title: “Mississippi Male and Female Hunter Motivations and Substitution Theory”

Authors: Oquendo, V.C., & Hunt, K.M.

Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association Annual Meeting (2008)

Date: February 22, 2008

Title: “Mississippi Male and Female Hunter Motivations and Substitution Theory”

Authors: Oquendo, V.C., & Hunt, K.M.

Posters, Exhibits, and Displays

Poster at the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Conference (2009)

Date: November 1 – 4, 2009

Title: “Trends in White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) Hunting Effort and Harvest by Mississippi Resident Hunters”

Authors: Oquendo, V.C., Hunt, K.M., & Demarais, S.

Poster at The Wildlife Society Annual Conference (2009)

Date: September 21, 2009

Title: “Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks Information and Education Evaluation”

Authors: Oquendo, V.C., & Hunt, K.M.

Display Board of the Mississippi State Chapter of the Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS)

Date: June 2009

Description: Updated and produced the display board illustrating general information about MANRRS. Display board has been presented at various campus events.

CERTIFICATIONS:

Adult CPR and First Aid, Medic First Aid (Starkville, MS), 2010

Motorboat Operator Certification Course, Department of the Interior, 2006

Master Wildlifer Certification, Wildlife Conservation on Private Lands: Clemson University, 2005

Open Water Scuba Diver, National Association of Underwater Instructors, 2005

SKILLS:

Fluent in Spanish, Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint)

HONORS AND AWARDS:

- Selected to attend the 2009 annual Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference in Atlanta, GA via the Minorities in Natural Resources and Conservation Committee’s stipend
Date: November 1 – 4, 2009
Duties: Represented Mississippi State University, presented a research poster titled: “Trends in White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) Hunting Effort and Harvest by Mississippi Resident Hunters”.
- Placed 2nd on the Essay Contest at the 2009 Southeastern Wildlife Conclave, March 2009
- Nominated for the Mississippi State University Department of Wildlife & Fisheries’ David Nabi Memorial Award, March 2009
- Mississippi State University Women’s Club Scholarship, March 2008
- Placed 3rd on the Essay Contest at the 2008 Southeastern Wildlife Conclave, March 2008
- Selected to attend the 2007 annual Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference in Charleston, WV via the Minorities in Natural Resources and Conservation Committee’s stipend
Date: October 20 – 23, 2007
Duties: Represented Mississippi State University, participated in MINRC workshops and technical discussions across several disciplines, and networked with professionals and fellow students.
- Florida Wildlife Federation Scholarship, April 2007

- Outstanding Service to the Department and University Award from the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida, April 2007
- Finalist for the Agricultural and Life Sciences Larry Connor Medal of Excellence, March 2007
- Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Scholarship Award, January 2007
- Selected to attend the 2006 annual Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference in Norfolk, VA via the Minorities in Natural Resources and Conservation Committee's stipend
Date: November 5 – 8, 2006
Duties: Represented the University of Florida, planned the next phase of educational career, and participated in wildlife technical discussions.
- Alpha Zeta Undergraduate Student of the Year, October 2006
- Florida Bright Futures Academic Scholarship, May 2002 – December 2006
- Dean's List, University of Florida College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, 2004, 2006
- National Dean's List, March 2004
- Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society inductee, March 2003
- International Baccalaureate Diploma Recipient, December 2002
- Summa Cum Laude Graduate from Choctawhatchee High School, May 2002
- Free Enterprise Award for Okaloosa County, Florida, May 2002
- Okaloosa County School District Honor Student, Okaloosa County, Florida, April 2002
- Department of the Navy Certificate; Armed Services Vocational Aptitude and Battery Exam, May 2001

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES:

Surfrider Foundation, Fort De Soto Park, Florida

Date: May 12, 2007

Duties: Planted sea oats on the park's beach to improve erosion prevention.

Agricultural and Life Sciences College Council, University of Florida (UF)

Date: January 2004 – April 2007

Duties: Represented the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences during university-related events. Collected textbooks to send to Cairo, Egypt as part of a book drive service project (January 2007 – May 2007). During National Agriculture Week at UF (April 2005): organized a bird-watching tour at Hawthorne Trail, Florida and participated in the college-wide field project at UF President Machen's home by setting up bird nest boxes, installing bat houses, and eradicating exotic plants.

Attended the 2006 Earth First Conference, Fort Worth, Florida

Date: February 18 – 19, 2006

Gave me exposure to environment-related discussions.

Attended the 2004 Southeastern Wildlife Conclave, Jonesboro, Arkansas

Date: March 2004

Participated in field trips and competed in wildlife science exercises.

Intramural Sports, University of Florida

Date: August 2002 – April 2004

Participated in football, basketball, and softball. Assisted in recruiting players for teams.

Choctawhatchee Senior High School, Fort Walton Beach, Florida

Date: August 2001 – May 2002

Position: War Chiefs Member (Selected by school administrators and student council)

Duties: Promoted and supported the high school's sports teams by assisting in organizing skits for pep-rallies and working concession stands during sporting events.

REFERENCES:

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