

This summer, I had the opportunity to intern for the World Wildlife Fund in Washington, DC. The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) is an international non-governmental organization and the world's leading conservation organization. Their goals are based on meeting the conservation and preservation needs of both people and wildlife and to reduce our human environmental footprint. This mission is accomplished from a local to a global level by combining global outreach with a foundation in science. From May 15th to July 29th, I was able to work at WWF alongside many knowledgeable, talented people who shared the same passion of engaging and inspiring people on the topic of conservation in a changing climate.

WWF has several goal teams, which are each dedicated to a specific ecologically important topic. My internship was under the Science and Innovations team as the Conservation Science Network intern. I was responsible for monitoring WWF's Conservation Science Network called LENS (Learning Exchange for Network Science). LENS is a way for all WWF employees to easily communicate, share information and stay connected on the topics of conservation science and innovations. My role monitoring the website included updating the member lists by adding new employees and modifying contact information, reviewing WWF's literary subscriptions and sharing information on relevant literary articles, and sending out weekly updates of the literature digest to the LENS members. The weekly updates became one of my favorite tasks. This included creating an email campaign and adding to it the interesting scientific articles that I believed would be relevant for WWF scientists and employees in the field.

The LENS website was launched a few years ago and this summer, encouraging participation on the website and expanding its overall mission became a topic of interest.

Due to this, I was able to be a part of this effort by uncovering the statistics of the types of engagement in the site and thinking of ways to attract more participation.

This summer I was also able to work with the Fuller team, which was not initially included in my responsibilities but quickly became one of my favorite parts about this internship. The Kathryn Fuller Science for Nature Fund supports an annual symposium in November, which includes bringing in speakers from all over the world to talk about a specific topic in conservation. This summer, we researched scientists and academics who were skilled in presenting on resilience in a changing climate and who could be potential speakers and moderators for this year's symposium. I was responsible for finding potential speakers and researching specific organizations with experience in climate change resilience. Toward the end of the summer we worked on booking the speakers and getting out advertisements to spread awareness about the event to the public.

I thoroughly enjoyed all of my projects this summer. More specifically I was so thankful to be able to work with and meet so many talented and inspiring scientists. From the almost daily "brown bag" informational meetings to the weekly team meetings and monthly all staff meetings I always learned something about how different parts of an organization work with each other and how goal teams work to accomplish their individual goals in a non-profit setting.

Primarily, I learned a lot about conservation science from my two main tasks this summer. From sorting through and reading some of WWF's scientific articles each week, I was able to stay up to date on what was happening in the world of conservation and climate change science. From my tasks on the Fuller team, I learned a lot about the importance of resilience in order to adapt and thrive in a changing climate. I was able to

hear several talks given by well-known scientists and organization leaders related to this topic. I also gained a deeper understanding of all of the levels of planning that go into creating such a popularly attended event. The weekly meetings we had for Fuller usually included four to eight team members and they all worked diligently to build off of each other's ideas and make sure that each person was satisfied with every decision that was made. It was also very interesting to learn about all of the internal workings of WWF. On my very first day during orientation, I was amazed to learn just how big this one organization is.

My internship in DC this summer exposed me to a wide variety of potential future career paths in conservation. The impressive group of people employed by WWF all had such unique and interesting passions and areas of expertise that allowed them to work so well together. An organization as big as WWF utilizes their marketing, finance, policy, and advertisement departments in addition to their well-known conservation goal teams. There were also several WWF employees in the field and abroad who would Skype in for meetings. Some even came by the DC office for a few days to a few weeks. I realized that I could see myself working for WWF or a similar organization in Washington, DC and that I might be interested in working in the field as well, while still interacting and working with scientists and other organization members.

I am so grateful to WWF, Sewanee's Career & Leadership Development and the funding donors for such a wonderful and enriching experience this summer. I would absolutely recommend other students to apply for this internship if they are interested in conservation and environmental science.