

Summer Internship Report 2017

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Hometown: Cedar Creek, Texas



**Landscape Analysis Lab:
Hydrological Analysis
Sewanee, Tennessee**

Provide an overview of the organization/research project and a summary of your responsibilities, tasks, and/or projects.

I contributed to an ongoing project to map the culverts, drains, and other manufactured hydrologic infrastructure of the Sewanee Domain, specifically around central campus, for a hydrological analysis of the area using GIS, with particular applications for development, maintenance, and ecological study. My duties included both field collection of data and lab work organizing and analyzing the data. I was also tasked with assisting in fulfilling requests made to the Landscape Analysis Lab for maps, data, or participation in additional projects.

During your internship, what did you accomplish or how did you make a difference? In what ways did you grow in your professional and technical skills?

I amassed both field and lab experience in this hydrological analysis project by organizing and standardizing the data previously collecting in association with this project and by contributing to the data with additional field work. I greatly expanded by experience with software programs such as Excel, ESRI ArcGIS and ESRI Survey123.

Describe a problem that you helped to solve at your internship. What skills or knowledge from your education at Sewanee helped you address the problem?

We received a request for a map of the area of the historic Sewanee community, to be represented as a rough polygon whose vertices were located at historically significant sites; however, the geographically-based names for these sites were not familiar to us. To remedy this problem, I utilized

interdisciplinary research methods and translation skills learned during my Sewanee career to produce the map requested.

In what way were your teamwork skills strengthened?

In working with supervisors, colleagues, and clients, I learned early on that communication was a necessity for efficient and excellent work. Although most of my work was conducted on an individual basis in the field or the lab, keeping the channels of communication open with others regarding project requirements, the status of projects, and problem-solving inquiries made everyone's tasks flow more smoothly.

How did your internship affect your career plans?

I decided to apply to this internship because I was inspired by the two GIS courses Sewanee offers, which I was fortunate enough to take. I wanted to explore the interdisciplinary applications for these programs and gain more experience working with the technology used in GIS. Whatever I end up pursuing as a career, I am certainly planning on incorporating the uses of GIS.

In what ways did your internship cause you to encounter people of different backgrounds from your own? What steps did you take to communicate effectively with such persons? What did you learn from such persons' perspectives?

I was able to see the wide variety of applications for GIS; professors and individuals from many different departments, administrative areas, and interests contacted the Landscape Analysis Lab (LAL), from historical maps to administrative assessments and archaeological data management. Additionally, my duties put me in contact with people of different skills and levels of involvement with Sewanee and the LAL. I had to adjust my approach to each situation, but each helped me appreciate a different aspect of my work.

Words of thanks to your internship funding donors:

I truly enjoyed this internship experience - with regard to the work I was able to do and the people I worked with - and it certainly has inspired ideas for future plans. Thank you, thank you, thank you!