

Dylan Feldmeier
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EDUCATION

Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut – August 2021 – Present
Masters of Environmental Science

University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut—December 2019 3.99 GPA
Dual Degree
 Bachelor of Science, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
 Bachelor of Science, Molecular and Cell Biology
Minor in Chemistry

RESEARCH

Research Head, Schmitz Lab, Yale University – August 2021 – Present

- Studying human-wildlife interactions in the Makgadikgadi Region of Botswana
- Applying socio-ecological research methods including camera traps, qualitative interviews, participatory risk mapping, and conflict mapping (livestock predation)

Research Assistant, Elphick Lab, University of Connecticut— July 2020 – May 2021

- Assisted in the development of EntoGEM, a community-driven systematic project to build a global evidence map of insect population and biodiversity trends
- Assessed the current state of evidence in scientific literature regarding insect declines, increases, or lack of changes over time
- Utilized the platform Sysrev to collaborate and review scientific articles

Field Assistant, Wagner Lab, University of Connecticut— June-July 2020

- Assisted in setup of Lepidoptera trap treatments and data collection for the Matson Trap Efficacy study
- Identified and counted Macromoth species in order to acquire abundance and diversity data
- Compared total species richness, abundance, and Simpson’s diversity index for the Matson trap against two industry standards

Research Head, Charles Giardina Lab, University of Connecticut—March 2019-May 2020

- Studied cancer cell signaling pathways based on RNA sequencing data
- Focused on HIF1- α and VEGF gene expression to understand cancer angiogenesis
- Stratified pathways to determine patient-specific drug treatments
- Biological consultant to computer engineers to create algorithms for modeling data

Research Head, Independent, Hyderabad, India—January-March 2019

- Utilized digital media and journalism to compare public and private healthcare in India
- Conducted interviews with patients and medical staff of Ghandi Hospital
- Presented photo documentary to university students at an exhibition to communicate international differences in healthcare

Research Head, African Ecology and Conservation; Limpopo Province, South Africa —May-August 2018

- Designed a research project focusing on animal behavior on the Entabeni Game Reserve
- Compared current and future methods of conservation for populations of lions, rhinos, and wild dogs
- Volunteered with conservationist Arrie van Deventer to rescue and relocate rhino calves after poaching incidents

- Worked in a wildlife center feeding lions and wild dogs and comparing captive behavior to that of wild populations
- Presented wildlife photography at a University of Connecticut exhibition to help raise awareness about conservation

Research Head, African Field Ecology and Digital Media; Limpopo Province, South Africa—June 2017-January 2018

- Directed, filmed, and edited a [documentary](#) focused on the local ecology of the Waterberg biosphere
- Utilized aerial drone footage and stabilized camera set-ups
- Conducted interviews with field guides, professors of ecology, and University of Connecticut undergraduates

Laboratory Assistant, John Malone Lab; University of Connecticut —November 2017- January 2018

- Collaborated on research to determine the presence and location of Rana frog species in the state of Connecticut
- Learned techniques for DNA extraction and PCR
- Applied bioinformatics via sequence editing in the program Geneious
- Utilized genetic and acoustic classifications to hypothesize evolutionary relationships

FIELD EXPERIENCE

Field Technician, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge—August-September 2020

- Mapped and controlled invasive plant species such as Japanese Knotweed, Burning Bush, and Spotted Knapweed utilizing ArcGIS Collector and Survey123
- Banded federally endangered Roseate Tern chicks as part of a tern productivity and shorebird monitoring study on Falkner Island
- Learned to use Direct Recording detectors to conduct bat acoustic surveys as part of a species diversity study and detection of Northern Long-Eared Bats

Field Technician, Herpetology; University of Connecticut —May-June 2019

- Utilized hand searches, transects, patch sampling, cover boards, and radio telemetry to find local Connecticut salamander, frog, turtle, and snake species
- Conducted an individualized research project to determine the abundance and diversity of six Connecticut salamander species, and their ranges to water sources
- Completed a population survey for the salamander species *Plethodon cinereus* in the University of Connecticut Fenton River Tract

Field Guide Intern, Honeyguide Ranger Camp; Mokopane, South Africa—May-August 2018

- Received training for level one Field Guide Association of Southern Africa exam
- Practiced skills in track and sign of local species
- Gave educational guiding experiences to university students and tourists about wildlife and conservation in South Africa
- Learned to drive a manual game drive vehicle close to common game (blue wildebeest, impala, zebra, etc.) and larger predators (lions and cheetahs) while monitoring their behavior in terms of comfortability and vigilance
- Taught lectures on animal behavior, wildlife photography, and conservation
- Worked with game management to learn about micro chipping to monitor highly poached species
- Studied population monitoring in terms of sustaining a reserve for predators and prey
- Managed a group of 20 international clients during an on foot guiding experience within a “Big 5” game

reserve

- Lead a Columbian tourist group on a game drive using mostly the Spanish language
- Compared wild vs captive animal behavior specifically in lions
- Learned skills in hospitality and customer service including kitchen, cleaning, and custodial work

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

STEM Coach, UCONN Nursing Program and Academic Achievement Center; Storrs, CT—January 2020-May 2021

- Participated in a partnership to provide academic transformational help for disadvantaged nursing students to become primary care nurse practitioners
- Aided in the development of the partnership, including drafting Scholarship invitations, creating lessons plans, and data collection via Qualtrics Survey software
- Organized and led seminars with the University of Connecticut's Nursing Learning Community and Biology department to discuss success in STEM and current academic challenges
- Trained and led workshops on virtual teaching techniques for supplemental instructors during UConn's transition to online teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Provided academic support and dynamic study strategies for undergraduates taking pre-requisite courses including Statistics, General Chemistry, Intro. Biology, Organic Chemistry, Ecology, and Genetics
- Trained supplemental instructors in skills such as commanding a classroom, clinical and real world application, and guiding group discussions

Undergraduate Supplemental Instruction, Biochemistry; Storrs, CT—January 2019-May 2021

- Initiated the creation of a supplemental course for the University of Connecticut's MCB 2000 (Biochemistry)
- Prepared lectures, study guides, and practice exams for classes held four times a week
- Held individual study sessions for struggling students
- Learned techniques to mold teaching for specific learning abilities, as well as enhanced communication skills while teaching via virtual platforms
- Lectured virtually via Zoom for 60+ students four nights a week during UConn's online class period

Teaching Assistant, African Field Ecology; Limpopo Province, South Africa — August 2017 and May-August 2018

- Taught lectures on the evolution of infanticide and comparative genomics including the genetics of the elephant and wild dog
- Provided students with practical field experience via game drives and guided walks
- Lead discussions about sustainable and ethical eco-tourism
- Presented research on the future of poaching via drones, social media, and geotagging
- Created a practical exercise to educate students on the importance of situational awareness in the field via perception, comprehension, and projection

OUTREACH

Instructor, UConn Forest Field Seminar; Storrs, CT— August 2019-May 2021

- Led instructional nature walks focused on amphibian and forest ecology
- Introduced undergraduates from local cities to UConn's protected forest
- Collected trash from trails and water sources to teach about human impact on the environment

Founder, Operation Rhino; Storrs, CT— August 2017-Present

- Founded a non-profit to raise awareness about the poaching crisis in Africa
- Lectured and lead discussions with undergraduates about the history of poaching and the future of conservation including the technology and politics involved
- Raised over \$4,000 dollars for the [Rhino Orphanage](#) in Limpopo Province of South Africa for medical and feed costs

Medical Volunteer and Founding Member, Seva Bharati (Service India); Kukatpally, Hyderabad, India—January 2019

- Founding member of the University of Connecticut’s first inter-continental alternative break for students interested in public health and international policies
- Trained in basic medical triage
- Assisted in serving meals at local homeless shelters
- Shadowed in the intensive care unit and radiology department in Gandhi Public Hospital
- Taught English and the importance of personal hygiene at an all girl’s Orphanage

SKILLS

Sequence editing in Geneious Software, Kit based DNA extraction, Radio Telemetry, Drone Operation, IR Spectroscopy, Photography, Cinematography, Lecturing, Enzyme Immunoassays, Photoshop/Lightroom, Track and Sign, Microsoft Office, GIS Software Use, R Programming Language

LANGUAGES

- Spanish, 5 years of formal education
- Afrikaans, terms used over radio communication
- Southern Sotho, terms used over radio communication

AWARDS

- Yale School of the Environment Merit Research Scholarship (\$50,000) - 2021
- Babbidge Scholar, earning a 4.0 for a full calendar year; University of Connecticut– 2017, 2018, 2019
- Clifford R. Scott Award in Recognition of Scholastic achievement ; Sigma Phi Epsilon– 2019
- Lt. Paul L. Drotch Memorial Scholarship (\$2000) for undergraduates in biological sciences who have demonstrated outstanding scholarship; University of Connecticut–2019
- Student Employee Award; University of Connecticut–2019
- Presidential Scholarship for Valedictorians in the state of Connecticut; University of Connecticut - 2016
- Valedictorian; Oxford High School–2016

INTEREST & ACTIVITIES

CrossFit, Running, Education Chair of Operation Rhino, Independent journalism on the topics of Wildlife Conservation and Public Health, Breeding South African Boer goats, [Wildlife Photography](#)
Directing and Filming [Wildlife YouTube Videos](#)