Tyus D. Williams

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**Education**

**Ph.D. Student**  August 2021 – Present

University of California, Berkeley

Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management

Advisors: Dr. Christopher J. Schell & Dr. Justin Brashares

**BSFR** Fisheries and Wildlife Science May 2019

University of Georgia

Thesis Advisor: Nathan P. Nibbelink

**Research Experience**

*University of Nevada – Reno,* **Community Ecology Field Technician**, Reno, NV: May 20. 2020 – Sept 9. 2020

* Performing field research on the response of vertebrate taxa such as small mammals, herpetofauna, bats, and birds to pinon juniper treatment/removal methods.
* Setting sherman traps for small mammals and collecting data on specimens caught.
* Setting out tripods with bat and bird acoustic boxes in sample plots to survey acoustic activity.
* Surveying for multiple weeks in Northern Nevada, California, and Oregon to assess different field sites and analyze species diversity between control, treatment, and post-treatment plots.

*The Cougar Network,* **Social Media/Confirmation Database Manager**: Jun 16. 2019 – Jul 1. 2020

* Handling all social media coordination for the Cougar Network on Twitter.
* Updating and managing the cougar network database.
* Scheduling and writing newsletters to inform subscribers on current events.

*Jekyll Island Authority,* **Seasonal Park Ranger**, Jekyll Island, Ga: Jun 5. 2019 – Sept 29. 2019

* Performed ranger patrols of Jekyll Island’s beach and outdoor-recreation spaces maintaining an interactive, informational, and authoritative enforcement presence on the beach.
* Engaged visitors and residents using recreation spaces, in a positive, proactive, clear and authoritative manner to convey rules, regulations, and promote conservation stewardship.

*Virginia Tech,* **Jaguar Research Project**, Belize, Central America: Dec 15. 2018 – Jan 4. 2019

* Set up camera traps in various areas of the Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve to monitor jaguars.
* Used GPS locations to create digital map of the study area in ArcGIS.
* Conducted habitat surveys to gather information on vegetation and entered data into excel spreadsheets.

*University of Georgia*, **Herbivory Project Technician**, Jekyll Island, Ga: Jul 5. – Aug 7. 2018

* Assessed how herbivory rates mediate a cascade of growth suppression on native and invasive species within barrier island forest systems.
* Measured heights of camphor saplings to estimate growth rates.
* Used Archer and Geode tech systems to capture waypoints at trees measured for data.

*Georgia Sea Turtle Center*, **Sea Turtle Research Assistant,** Jekyll Island, Ga: May 23. – Aug 4. 2018

* Conducted night/dawn patrol research efforts to study and monitor federally protected loggerhead sea turtles.
* **Dawn Patrol Responsibilities**: (surveying from 6am – 3pm)
  + Used UTVs to survey entire beach (0 km – 15 km) and assess status of known sea turtle nests and record field observations.
  + Documented sea turtle tracks not encountered by night patrol team and recorded locations.
  + Conducted nest excavation if depredation (e.g. fire ants) occurred and collected mortality data.
* **Night Patrol Responsibilities**: (surveying from 8pm to 6am)
  + Used UTVs and walking surveys to assess sea turtle activity.
  + Recorded all sea turtle encounters on datasheet.
  + Tagged new turtles, checked/inserted PIT tags, collected genetic biopsy sample, collected genetic egg sample, recorded habitat measurements, and morphometric analysis.
* **Other Research Involvement:**
* Assisted with Alligator mark-recapture efforts.
* Assisted with Eastern Diamondback (*C. adamanteus*) tracking by radio-telemetry.

*Research Assistant***, Salamander Dynamics Analysis Study,** UGA, Athens, Ga: Sept 20.- Oct 5. 2016

* Assisted with fieldwork on salamander ecology in North Carolina.
* Collected data on physical characteristics and sex to assist homing mechanism research.
* Identifying salamander species and capturing for morphometric data collection.

**Teaching Experience**

**Graduate Student Instructor**, Urban Ecology, University of California – Berkeley, Spring 2022 Semester

*Synopsis:* This course examines the complex, coupled, and heterogeneous interactions that occur among organisms, humans, and the urban environment. Additionally, it emphasizes foundational concepts in urban ecology spanning the organismal, population, community, and ecosystem levels, with a special focus on the role of social-ecological dynamics in shaping the emergent properties of urban biological systems. It also discusses how such interactions lead to rapid evolutionary change in cities and discuss what that means for urban biodiversity and conservation. Subsequently, discussions how cities regionally and globally have similar and dissimilar properties, and how urban ecological principles to urban planning, design, conservation, wildlife management, and environmental justice were also held.

Instructor: Dr. Christopher J. Schell

**Graduate Student Instructor**, Fung Fellowship: Conservation and Technology, University of California – Berkeley, Fall 2021 Semester

*Synopsis:* Conservation and Technology offered by the Fung Fellowship takes a new approach to addressing the current issues of modern society by removing the emphasis of test taking performance and encouraging teamwork collaboration to develop innovative ideas to ameliorate sustainability and environmental problems present in our society from water recycling to wildlife conservation concerns around the globe. This course takes a unique perspective of discussing ways to optimize the efforts of conservation with the current advancements of technology available in our market society. My role as the GSI was to clarify information from lecture and aid in the guidance of group project development.

Instructor: Aakash Desai

**Guest Lecturer, Science Communication Graduate Workshop,** University of California – Davis February 2020

**Publications**

Williams, T., Stofer, K. A., Hecht, K., & Lundgren, L. (2021). Creating a Community Through Best Practices: Using Social Media to Engage Communities with Research: WC400/AE739, 1/2022. *EDIS*, *2022*(1). <https://doi.org/10.32473/edis-wc400-2022>.

Lundgren, L., Stofer, K. A., Hecht, K., & Williams, T. (2020). Using Social Media to Engage Communities with Research: SMART Social Media—Planning for Success: AEC699/WC362, 11/2020. *EDIS*, *2020*(6). <https://doi.org/10.32473/edis-wc362-2020>

Stofer, K. A., Lundgren, L., Hecht, K., & Williams, T. (2020). Using Social Media to Engage Communities with Research: Basics: AEC698/WC361, 11/2020. *EDIS*, *2020*(6). <https://doi.org/10.32473/edis-wc361-2020>

*Written Works*

A Day in the Life: Big Cats - What do Lions, Tigers, and Panthers Get up to All Day? April 2022

**Presentations**

*Invited Seminars, Conferences, & Symposiums:*

**T. D. Williams,** Estimating the Spatial Overlap of Jaguars Using Camera Traps in the Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve, Belize, *Center for Undergraduate Research Symposium,* University of Georgia

April 2019

Morehouse, Diversity in Science Panel Discussion

November 2019

Georgia Tech, Graduate Student Wildlife Conservation Discussion

March 2020

Richmond California, METAS STEM Day Presentation

November 2020

Columbia University, Science Communication Strategies Panel

November 2020

University of California-Berkeley, Black Naturalists Panel

April 2021

University of Oklahoma, The University of Oklahoma SciComm Panel

May 2021

The Wildlife Society, Western Section Conference: Closing Plenary Session

February 2022

**Fellowships & Awards** (total ~ $4000)

*Research Scholarships:*

**Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities Grant** [$1000] August 2018

*Awards & Honors:*

**NSF GRFP Honorable Mention** March 2020

**Carey Louis Davis Scholarship** [$2500] August 2017

**Tarrant Family Study Abroad Scholarship** [$500] January 2016

**Georgia HOPE Scholarship Recipient [/]** 2015 – 2017

**Dean’s List [/]** Spring 2019

**Popular Media, Interviews, & Features**

*Podcast Features:*

**Rewilding Earth Podcast. Episode 58:** [**The Role that Diversity, Justice, and Equality Play in Conservation**](https://rewilding.org/episode-58-tyus-williams-on-the-role-that-diversity-justice-and-equality-play-in-winning-the-tough-conservation-battles-ahead/)

**The Science Pawdcast. Episode 06:** [**Cat Science and Adventures with Wild Cat Expert Tyus Williams!**](https://www.buzzsprout.com/413041/1493317-episode-6-cat-science-and-adventures-with-wild-cat-expert-tyus-williams)(August 2019)

**NGS Navigators Podcast. Episode 035:** [**Meet a Wildlife Biologist: Tyus D. Williams**](http://www.ngsnavigators.com/blog/035)(June 2019)

**SPECIES Podcast.** [**Human: Tyus Williams, Wildlife Biologist**](https://species.libsyn.com/human-tyus-williams-wildlife-biologist)(July 2019)

**Just the Zoo of Us Podcast. Episode 47:** [**Tiger w/ Tyus Williams**](https://anchor.fm/justthezooofus/episodes/47-Tiger-w-Tyus-Williams-ech5ed/a-a1sm7i8)(April 2020)

*Interviews/Features:*

#UniqueScientists, [Unique Scientist: Tyus D. Williams](https://uniquescientists.com/2019/08/09/unique-scientist-tyus-d-williams/) (August 2019)

[Interviewed by HuffPost on the Tiger King documentary](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/tiger-king-animal-experts-scientists_n_5e83ba5dc5b65dd0c5d5ba98?nko) (April 2020)

[Interviewed by The Atlantic discussing intraspecific killings between mammals](https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2021/07/mammal-adulticide/619512/) (July 2021)

**Independent/Collaborative Research Projects**

***Loggerhead Morphometric Clutch Analysis***(Georgia Sea Turtle Center) May. – Aug. 2018

* Generated research concept involving predicting sea turtle clutch sizes from morphometric information and data patterns of the sea turtle research database.
* Conducted linear regression correlations and F statistical measures to express relationship strength of variables.

**Service**

*Science Outreach:*

**#SciQFriday Weekly** (Twitter) 2018 – Ongoing

1. Host of the weekly SciQFriday series on Twitter where I invite fellow scientists to discuss their work.
2. The objective of the event is to give the spotlight to individuals in the field and showcase diverse representation.
3. Successfully featured dozens of brilliant individuals (guestlist featured on website) in the field of natural resources on my platform.

**National Geographic Open Explorer** *(The Call of the Jaguar)* Dec. 2018

1. Invited personally by National Geographic Coordinator to document my research on jaguars.
2. Documented ongoing research efforts and the observed transition of jaguar location on blog posts.
3. Communicated the value of my research and educated general public about jaguar natural history.

**Science Project Consultant**(Science Student Partnership) Mar. 2017

1. Consulted students on a science topic of choice and gave them assistance in preparing them.
2. Mentored other students on their projects.
3. Assisted in the writing approach and the formulation of the questions that had to be answered in the project.

**Virtual Science Talk**(Science Student Partnership)Mar. 2017

1. Invited to speak to high school students in Kentucky through skype about my life in science.
2. Explained to classes the objective of what wildlife science students are taught.
3. Answered any questions or concerns from students about college and expectations.

*Leadership:*

***Warnell Diversity Committee****, (Member)* University of Georgia,Athens, GA Sept. 2018 – May. 2019

1. Addressed and discussed diversity demographics within the field of natural resources.
2. Created informational plans and guidelines to improve diversity measures within program.
3. Communicated with professors and students about concerns and perspectives on Warnell demographics.

***Author/Peer Reviewer****,* Athens Science Observer,Athens, GA Jan. 2016- Feb. 2017

1. Wrote and edited scientific concepts aimed toward the general public.
2. Aided peers by editing their articles and providing constructive feedback.
3. Attended science writing workshops to improve writing skills.

***Outreach & Event Coordinator****, (Officer)* UGA Herpetological Society,Athens, GA Jan. 2016-May. 2019

1. Attended outreach events and engaged the public about the field of herpetology.
2. Coordinated outreach events and contacted establishments to schedule outreach dates.
3. Hosted special guests and faculty members to teach about the field of herpetology.

*Professional Membership:* The Wildlife Society, UAW 2865