

COURTNEY C. STEPIEN

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EDUCATION

The University of Chicago, Ph.D. in Evolutionary Biology Chicago, Illinois
– Focus on ecosystem recovery from disturbance; full fellowship support; GPA: 3.96/4.00 Expected Spring 2016
– Elective courses in Applied Statistics, Scientific Computing and Multilevel Modeling

The University of Chicago, M.S. in Evolutionary Biology Chicago, Illinois
– Full fellowship support; GPA: 3.91/4.00; GRE: 750M/670V/6.0W December 2012

Wellesley College, B.A. in Biological Sciences with honors Wellesley, Massachusetts
– Published undergraduate thesis in *Evolution & Development*; GPA: 3.69/4.00 June 2008

EXPERIENCE

The University of Chicago, *National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow* Chicago, Illinois
– Designed field and lab experiments to investigate how ecological communities respond to September 2010 – present
disturbances and grazing pressure from herbivory, working primarily at remote island sites
– Developed environmental chambers for use in remote field settings to determine how plants affect water chemistry
– Monitored biodiversity and environmental parameters at field sites over 4 years
– Presented findings to 100+ leading researchers at three international scientific meetings
– Reviewed manuscripts in confidence and advised editors of *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology & Ecology*
– Performed literature review and meta-analysis of aquatic plant interactions with the global carbon cycle using carbon isotope data; published findings in *Journal of Ecology*

Wellesley College, *Howard Hughes Medical Institute Post-Graduate Researcher* Wellesley, Massachusetts
– Managed ecology and evolution lab and researched the effects of invasive species September 2008 – August 2010
and habitat fragmentation on endemic Galápagos weevils, performed two collection trips
– Trained 12 undergraduates to develop scientific hypotheses and test them via hands-on lab work
– Published research in *Journal of Heredity* and *Molecular Ecology Resources*

Wellesley College, *Undergraduate Research Assistant* Wellesley, Massachusetts
– Developed hypothesis-driven research project using museum collections May 2005 – June 2008
– Published a paper and presented at a scientific conference

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

UChicago Biological Sciences Division, *Peer Health Liaison Program Coordinator* Chicago, Illinois
– Establishing program for connecting graduate students to health resources through peer network June 2014 – present
– Organized invited lectures; developed and presented wellness materials at incoming student orientation

International Collecting Trip, Galápagos Islands, Ecuador, *Trip Leader* Galapagos, Ecuador
– Led three-week collection trip with multilingual team of eight Ecuadorian and American researchers March 2011
– Managed international permit process, group dynamics and specimen collection and transport

NOTABLE AWARDS AND HONORS

British Ecological Society Harper Young Investigator's Prize, *Nominated* 2015
– Current finalist for best 2015 paper in *Journal of Ecology* by an early-career scientist
National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant – \$20,540 towards dissertation research 2014
National Science Foundation Innovation in Graduate Education Challenge – 3rd place of 500+ submissions 2013
National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship – \$121,500, premier award for U.S. graduate scientists 2012
University of Chicago Genetics and Regulation Traineeship – National Institutes of Health 2011
Additional research and travel grants totaling \$15,345 for eight awards 2007-2014

CERTIFICATIONS AND INTERESTS

Certifications: Ecological Society of America Certified Associate Ecologist; Certified in Army Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation and Midwest Regional Supplement Protocols

Personal interests: Hiking, languages, community health and wellness, volunteering at Chicago PAWS animal shelter