

CHIARA BALLAM

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYST INTERN

CONTACT

 <https://www.linkedin.com/in/chiara-ballam/>

 Austin, Texas

SKILLS

Persistence

Communication

Creative Problem Solving

Adaptability

Organization/Planning

LANGUAGES

English 

Spanish 

Italian 

CERTIFICATIONS

Water Quality Monitoring

CPR/AED

PROFILE

Jill of all trades, constantly broadening my horizons in all aspects of my life. I am always looking for opportunities to learn and have a positive impact on those around me. This has led me to seek a career in sustainability and conservation. I have years of experience in research, teaching, basketball training, and health. I am fluent in English and Spanish and currently learning Italian. I am currently writing a children's book to promote enthusiasm for the environment at a young age and I plan on using any profits to support conservation efforts.

EDUCATION

Southern Virginia University

August 2018- May 2021

Bachelor's

Major: Biochemistry

Summa Cum Laude

GPA: 3.98

Major: Biology

Summa Cum Laude

GPA: 4.0

Minor: Psychology

GPA: 4.0

Honors/Awards

President's List

Fall 2018-Fall 2020

Provost's List

Fall 2018-Spring 2021

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society

April 2020-May 2021

Inducted as junior in top 7.5% of class

Activities

Alpha Epsilon Delta

August 2018-May 2021

Pre-Health Professionals Society

August 2018-May 2021

Women's Basketball Team

August 2018-May 2021

SAAC Representative

August 2020-May 2021

Chantilly High School

September 2014-June 2017

Advanced High School Diploma

GPA: 4.3

Honors/Awards

National Honors Society

May 2015-May 2017

Outstanding scholarship, service, leadership, and character

Activities

Women's Basketball

September 2014-June 2017

Captain and Player

KAST(Kids Are Scientists Too)

September 2015-June 2017

Led STEM experiments with kids after school

Cards for Care Club

September 2015-June 2017

Wrote letters for children in hospital

Interact Club

September 2015-June 2017

Participated in national service club to find areas in need of help

RESEARCH

I-READ Reading Intervention

University of Texas

September 2022-February 2023

- Collaborate with UT Department of Education
- Lead reading intervention lessons at Clear Fork Elementary School
- Find ways to improve intervention program
- Observe effectiveness of I-READ intervention program
- Led by Doctor Nathan Clemens

Purification and Enzymatic Analysis of a Modified Version of β -galactosidase

Southern Virginia University

August 2019-May 2021

- Analyzed plasmid through gel electrophoresis
- Induced protein using arabinose
- Purified protein through ammonium sulfate precipitation, ion exchange chromatography, and affinity chromatography
- Created assay buffer with ONPG and a phosphate buffer
- Completed kinetic analysis to find K_m and V_{max} with Beer-Lambert Law
- Conducted quantitative analysis to find total protein, total activity, specific activity, yield, and purification level at each step
- Created plasmid map for pBAD-LacZ
- Defined successful purification method
- Supervised by Doctor Roger Johnson

CORT Levels and Foaming Response in *Eurycea lucifuga* and *Plethodon wehrlei*

Southern Virginia University

August 2020-December 2020

- Completed field work in the Natural Bridge Caverns of Natural Bridge, Virginia
- Caught, handled, observed, and released salamanders
- Collected salamander fluids
- Recorded and calculated data
- Used ELISA to measure corticosteroid levels in salamander fluids
- Found results demonstrating a correlation between size and stress hormones in *Eurycea lucifuga*, not *Plethodon wehrlei*
- Supervised by Doctor Samuel Hirt

Malaria as a Result of Unplanned Urbanization in Manaus, Brazil

Virginia Tech

September 2017-December 2017

- Collected data to establish a trend
- Completed historical research
- Reviewed scholarly articles and connected data
- Discovered positive correlation between deforestation from rubber booms and malaria
- Presented findings as a final research project for Societal Health
- Supervised by Doctor Rebecca Hester and Doctor Emily Satterwhite

WORK EXPERIENCE

Natural Resources Specialist

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

March 2023-August 2023

- Research noncompliance allegations and prepare specific materials to support routine enforcement actions
- Monitor ordering provisions and compliance schedules for formal enforcement actions
- Interact with respondents to encourage compliance, settle enforcement actions, communicate case status, and provide technical assistance
- Maintain data to track case progress from assignment to closure
- Assist and complete special projects

Environmental Analyst Intern

Lignium

December 2022-Current

- Analyze the regulations and procedures related to livestock manure
- Determine the carbon footprint of Lignium and contribution to planet health
- Research methane and N2O regulations along with their cost and impacts
- Review and edit Lignium LCA
- Apply for grants and research grant opportunities
- Quantify impact of renewable combustible pellet from cow manure
- Research market information, condense, and present it to team
- Communicate in English and Spanish
- Contribute to the growth and success of the startup

Basketball Trainer

Self-Employed

Summer 2020- Current

- Creating individual specific drills and lead training sessions
- Helping players visualize and reach their goals
- Marketing, advertising, and customer service

Reading Interventionist

University of Texas

September 2022-February 2023

- Collaborate with UT Department of Education to help disadvantaged kids
- Lead reading intervention lessons at Clear Fork Elementary School
- Find ways to improve intervention program
- Observe and report effectiveness of I-READ intervention program

Lead Teacher

ThinkPlayLearn Reggio-Montessori School

September 2021-August 2022

- Created and followed curriculum to teach
- Developed summer camp curriculum and managed summer camp
- Trained new teachers
- Managed behavior and worked with parents to create individual specific management plans
- Began as floating assistant teacher and was promoted to lead within six months
- Contributed to increasing student body six fold by maintaining organization, conducting tours, and etc.
- Helped startup school grow and develop as part of core team

Service Technician

Serenity Aquariums and Aviaries

November 2020-November 2021

- Cleaned and repaired aquariums and aviaries in assisted care facilities
- Cared for birds and fish and treated injuries and illness
- Received positive feedback from residents who benefited from aquariums and aviaries
- Communicated and coordinated with facility administrators who always gave positive feedback

Patient Safety Associate

Fair Oaks Hospital

Summer 2020

- Monitored and assisted patients for 12+ hours during COVID-19
- Assisted doctors, nurses, and clinical technicians
- Kept patients calm and comfortable during their stay

Medical Intern

Advanced Internal Medicine

Summer 2020

- Assisted and learned the practice of internal medicine
- Received positive feedback from patients

Medical Fellow

Atlantis

Summer 2019

- Shadowed and assisted doctors in the operating room and in doctor-patient meetings in Vigo, Spain
- Shadowed doctors in anesthesiology, traumatology, and pediatrics for 75+ hours

Lead Gym Teacher

MyGym

March 2018-December 2019

- Learned curriculum and taught children from 6 months to 10 years
- Increased clientele by anticipating and satisfying customer needs

VOLUNTEER WORK

River Crew

San Marcos River Foundation

November 2022-June 2023

- Conduct water quality monitoring and report results for EPA and Texas Streams data collection
- Complete necessary field work
- Remove invasive species and clean up trash
- Provide community outreach

Basketball Coach

Chantilly Youth Association

September 2017-August 2022

- Coach girls' basketball leagues from 1st grade through high school as head and assistant coach
- Improve players' skills significantly and develop passion for the sport
- Mentor for life skills

Buena Vista Volunteer

SVU Women's Basketball

September 2018-September 2020

- Built fences
- Painted, cleaned, and refreshed the local elementary school playgrounds

Medical Volunteer

RAM Clinic

September 2019-May 2020

- Escorted patients to and from doctors
- Set up and took down mobile clinic stations
- Clinic travels to low resource regions of Appalachia, offering free health care

Dog Foster

Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation

September 2014-August 2016

- Administered medicine to sick puppies and dogs
- Prepared animals in care to be adopted
- Fostered and cared for newborn puppies and mothers

KAST(Kids Are Scientists Too) Member

Chantilly High School

September 2015-June 2017

- Created and conducted STEM experiments with kids in after school program

Cards for Care Member

Chantilly High School

September 2015-June 2017

- Wrote cards for patients in hospital and completed hospital outreach

