AMARI BLAISE

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Education

College of Biological Sciences, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities ***Expected graduation Spring 2018***

Bachelor of Science, Major in Plant Biology with Minor in Marine Biology

Cumulative GPA: 3.5/4.0

Honors: Dean's List (2 Semesters), University of Minnesota Presidential Scholarship, HPSH Valedictorian—Class of 2014

Teaching Experience

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant ***January 2016-Present***

University of Minnesota

Marine Diversity Lab, BIOL 2007

- Facilitate course marine animal dissections and maintained marine tanks for hermit crab experiments
- Create and deliver Power Point presentations of essential course material in a class of more than twenty students
- Provide feedback on research papers and aid in writing and grading of quizzes and exams

Research Experiences

Undergraduate Research Assistant ***May 2015 to Present***

University of Minnesota

*Undergraduate Directed Research**, Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology***

Faculty Mentor: Ray Newman, Ph.D.

- Assisted in extensive research and fieldwork in teams collecting and sorting invasive aquatic plant species in the investigation of their relationship with native insects in freshwater lakes
- Training in basic lab techniques, water quality measurements, and GPS. Certification and practice of electrofishing
- Independently headed data-processing (proficient with R analysis software and Excel)

Research Expedition Greenland ***June to July 2013***

Joint Science Education Project (JSEP), National Science Foundation (NSF)

*Expedition Leader: Lynn Foshee Reed, **Directorate for Geosciences, Division of Polar Programs***

- Worked in international teams with Danish and Greenlandic students studying the effects of global warming on the Greenlandic Ice Sheet. Groups interviewed environmental scientists and climatologists and synthesized information in short-film format
- Analyzed water quality of glacial ponds, collected cyanobacteria and macroinvertebrates along fjord, and catalogued emerging plant community. Findings featured as part of a mobile app "*Island of Ice"* sponsored by NASA
- Created and coordinated outreach event for teens, "*Life Along the Fjord"* at Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN. Themed to bridge the gap between science and art by using scientific tools (litmus paper, agar plates) to create works of art

Engagement Activities

Member of the Health and Biological Research Group (HBR) ***September 2014-present***

- Read and discuss scientific publications in an effort to better understand current scientific research
- Write a summary and original review article on a newly published research paper for publication on the HBR website
- Develop further understanding of scientific research by receiving feedback on review article from the original author