

## **Melissa Hillegass**

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### **Summary of Qualifications**

- Pending B.S. degree from the University of Central Florida
- Conducted research in South Africa, summer 2004
- Excellent communication skills and a fast learner and eager to achieve academic goals
- Broad range of knowledge in laboratory skills and strong desire to expand skill-base

### **Summary of Skills**

- Accustomed to working directly with a variety of animals
- Proficient in Microsoft Excel, Power Point, and Word
- Familiar with basic research techniques and processes
  - Experience in Organic Chemistry Laboratory

### **Professional Background**

#### **EDUCATION**

**Degree:** B.S. (Candidate), University of Central Florida, December 2004, Biology Major, Molecular/Microbiology Minor

Accepted to M.S. University of Central Florida, October 2004, Biology Program, Commencing January 2005

**Courses:** Molecular Biology 1&2, Genetics, Animal Behavior, Pathogenic Microbiology, Ethnobotany, Immunology, Population Biology and Evolution, Organic Chemistry 1 & 2, Organic Chemistry Lab, Microbiology Lab, Biochemistry, Genetics Lab, ..., Cumulative G.P.A. 3.31

**Academic Achievements:** Florida Academic Scholarship recipient, UCF High Academic Achievement Scholarship recipient, Florida Pell Grant recipient

**Affiliations:** UCF Rowing 2001-2002, Microbiology Association 2000

#### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Teaching Assistant,** Requiring excellent speaking and Power Point skills

University of Central Florida, Orlando August 2004-Present

#### **Responsibilities Include**

- Communication of ideas and biological techniques
- Development of learning constructs

**Tutor,** Explanation of terms and skills for facilitation of learning

Self-employed, Winter Park October 2002- April 2004

### **Responsibilities Include**

- Using aspects of individual understanding to develop higher understanding

**Instructor**, Delivering course material and demonstrating techniques

Florida Institute of Animal Arts, Casselberry 2001

### **Responsibilities Include**

- Augmentation of experience from internships with basic knowledge of equipment and methods
- Empowering students through application of skills

**Veterinary Technician/Assistant**, Working with many different types of lab equipment

McAbee Veterinary Hospital, Winter Park March 1997- May 2002

### **Responsibilities Include**

- Learn and use laboratory equipment (blood machines, endoscope, autoclave, ECG machine, X-ray).
- Proper handling and care of animals.

## **JOB EXPERIENCE**

2004-Present Teaching Assistant for General Biology Lab (UCF)  
2004-2004 Researcher in conjunction with Dr.Jane Waterman, in South Africa  
2001-2004 Tutor of an array of high school subjects  
2001-2001 Instructor for Florida Institute of Animal Arts  
1997-2002 Veterinary Technician/Assistant at McAbee Veterinary Hospital

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

**Research Assist**, Wekiwa Springs, June 2003-July 2003, Data collection on the Sherman Fox Squirrel

**Researcher**, South Africa, May 2004-August 2004, Planning and execution of research methods on the Cape Ground Squirrel

## **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

I could assist my colleagues in DNA extraction, data collection in the field, and learning new research methods in other areas of study. Working in a laboratory setting would allow me broaden my knowledge of equipment use and techniques. I have an appetite for learning and am a quick study, whom enjoys learning new laboratory techniques and working in a lab.