

1. Current hometown (where you are currently living):

**Bar Harbor, Maine**

2. Share more about your work – what it entails, aspects that are especially challenging or enjoyable:

**I work with the Wildlife program at Acadia, mostly on our ongoing bat monitoring program, but I've gotten to work on projects involving many types of animals. Bats are a big focus right now due to White Nose Syndrome, a fungal disease that has caused massive declines in bat populations across North America. We study bats in ANP primarily through two methods: acoustic monitoring and mist netting. Acoustic monitoring involves setting up detectors with microphones to record the calls bats make when they are foraging for food and tells us which species are in the area. Mist netting is a method to live capture bats. This gives us lots of information on individual bats, and an opportunity to see if they are healthy.**

**Doing conservation work is both incredibly rewarding and difficult. It can be emotionally challenging to know that these animals you grow to care deeply for may not recover. However, I feel good knowing the work I do is informing conservation efforts to protect species that are so interesting and important to our landscape.**

3. COA senior project:

**My senior project was an investigation into the impact of barometric pressure and relative humidity on the activity of three species of *Myotis* bats found in Acadia National Park. I did this through analyzing and interpreting 10 years of data collected from mist netting efforts in the park.**

4. COA internship:

**I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to complete three internships during my time at COA! My first was working as a small mammal field technician with the University of New Hampshire. I spent my summer working in the beautiful White Mountains National Forest studying the impacts of forest structure on small mammals. My second was a short internship with the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) while I was participating in the Yucatán program. I assisted the University with their research on octopus aquaculture and conducted interviews with local fisherman about changes they had observed in the marine ecosystem over the last 20 years. And finally, I participated in the Acadia Scholars program, which is a partnership between Acadia National Park and COA offering students internships in**

**the park. I got to work with the Wildlife program and assist them with their monitoring efforts of bats in the park. This internship led me to the job I have today.**

5. Human ecology in action – in what ways does your background in human ecology influence your work with the Park Service? \*

**My background in human ecology helps me approach conservation science in a holistic way. Historically, western ecology and conservation studies have either considered humans to not be part of nature, or to be the enemy of it. During my time at COA I learned humans are wildlife, and conservation science that believes in completely eliminating our interactions with other wildlife is not realistic. Working for the Park Service is really interesting because national parks are both designed to maintain and protect natural resources while also making the areas accessible to public use. They are a great example of human ecology at work.**

6. What classes, internships, or experiences at COA helped prepare you for or sparked your interest in working in national parks?

**My Acadia Scholars internship is what really helped prepare me to work in a national park. Seeing how Acadia's Resource Management division worked from the inside gave me a better understanding of what I would be expected to know if I were hired, and I learned many of those things during my time there. I was glad I had this experience before my final year at COA because it made me realize what other skills I wanted gain before graduating. This helped me choose my classes and decide on my senior project topic.**

7. A COA experience that was particularly significant or memorable – this could be a course, an adventure, an aspect of life in the COA or MDI community, etc.

**During the winter of my 4<sup>th</sup> year I went on an amazing cross country skiing trip with the outing club in the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. Before this trip I had never been cross country skiing and I had planned to do a bunch of work on my senior project that weekend. But I decided to go anyway because I figured I wouldn't have an opportunity like this after graduating from COA. We got lucky and a foot of snow had fallen the night before we got there, and it was so magical. Even though I may not have done as much schoolwork as I should have that weekend, I was reminded how grateful I am to live in this beautiful place and have access to public lands, which I think was the more important experience for me to have at the time.**

8. Considerations for prospective students – what do you think a student who might apply to COA should know?

**Everyone at College of the Atlantic cares a lot- about their studies/teaching/work, and about each other. It's refreshing, and it makes learning more exciting and interesting when everyone around you really wants to be there and wants you to do well.**

9. Considerations for current students – what do you think a student who might want to work for the National Park Service should know?

**The National Park Service might be a good fit for you if you like to travel and meet lots of new people. When you first start working for the National Park Service, you'll probably have a seasonal job. Many people work for the park service because of the freedom these temporary positions give; you can road trip to wherever the next job is and explore lots of different parks and places. However, winters can be difficult. Off-season/ winter work can be hard to find even if you're willing to move around, and people who have seasonal jobs but want to stay in one place will often find a job for the winter outside of the park service.**

**Also, if you like the idea of working in a National Park but don't think you would find something in your field, you might be pleasantly surprised. Before I got to COA I thought working for the park service was just for super outdoorsy people. In reality, there are tons of different jobs that support the NPS- sociologists, mechanics, archivists, IT technicians, writers, the list goes on!**