

# ASHLEY RASMUSSEN

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES GRADUATE STUDENT

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## EDUCATION

M.S. Biological Sciences, Ecology/Evolution- University of Illinois at Chicago

*Project summary:* I used available data, QGIS, and R to investigate if a luxury effect exists in Chicago, Illinois across both the 77 established Chicago community areas, and the established Chicago census tracts. A luxury effect is an observed positive relationship between biodiversity and affluence. In this project, I was interested to see if there was a positive relationship between urban tree biodiversity and median household income and/or per capita income. Other affluent factors were also tested to see what type of correlation existed, if any, including crime rates, the nature and time that people commute each day, and percent open area.

*Advisor:* Dr. Miquel Gonzalez-Meler

B.S. Biological Sciences- Arizona State University (Summa Cum Laude)

## TEACHING AND OTHER EXPERIENCE

TA: Biology of Populations and Communities Lab- Department of Biological Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago

I independently ran two labs per semester, with some of my duties including providing lectures, giving demonstrations, lesson planning/structure, and grading.

TA: UIC Experience- Department of Liberal Arts & Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago

I independently taught two courses per semester, with some of my duties including providing lectures, first-year student mentoring, lesson planning/structure, and grading.

Supplemental Instructor- Moorpark College, Moorpark, CA

I was an employee of the math center, working directly with a specific course each semester. My duties included providing in-class and after-class help to students and independently teaching the class at times.

History Intern- Moorpark College, Moorpark, CA

*Project summary:* I independently conducted research and interviews to understand the history of the city of Moorpark, California. This included getting a comprehensive overview of historical figures and locations and changes that occurred over time in the city. Key interviews included long-standing mayor, Janice S. Parvin, in private interviews and by observing city council meetings, and individual interviews with members of the Moorpark Women's Fortnightly Club.

*Supervisor:* History faculty member Patricia Colman

Student Ambassador 2014

My responsibilities included independently conducting campus tours to groups ranging from 225+ people, providing group presentations to local high schools and on campus at Moorpark College, and answering the office phone and email.

Veterinarian Office and Technician Support 2018

Prepared cat and dog injections, provided initial animal visit assessment, answered office phone and email, scheduled appointments, maintained consistent and daily communication with office veterinarians, and kept all office files updated and checked for accuracy before filing.

European Services Caregiver 2019

Provided full-time care to grandmother.

## **FUNDING, ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS**

Department of Biological Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago 2024

Graduate Student Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring Award (GSETMA) recipient

Department of Biological Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago 2024

Travel award recipient

CROCUS (Community Research on Climate and Urban Science) 2022

Provided M.S. funding

U.S. Department of Energy 2022

Provided M.S. funding

Moorpark College, Moorpark, California 2016

Best continuing student who has shown significant academic achievement

Edison STEM Scholarship 2016

COPE Health Scholars 2015

Most notable health scholar of the month

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS:**

**Rasmussen, A., et. al. (2023).** Does a Luxury Effect Exist in Chicago, Illinois? An Analysis of Tree Biodiversity and its Relationship to Social/Environmental Factors Across the 77

Community Areas of Chicago. AGU Fall Meeting Abstracts, Poster Board #A31I-2498, Session A31I: Extreme Weather and Climate in Urban Areas, Their Social Impacts, and Mitigation.

**Rasmussen, A., et. al., (2023).** Does a Luxury Effect Exist in Chicago, Illinois? An Analysis of Tree Biodiversity and its Relationship to Social/Environmental Factors Across the 77 Community Areas of Chicago. Argonne National Laboratory, Poster Board Presentation.

**INVITED TALKS:**

**Rasmussen, A. (2023)** CROCUS: Community Research on Climate and Urban Science. The University of Illinois at Chicago Ecology and Evolution Seminar.

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| <b>COMMUNITY BUILDING AND VOLUNTEER WORK</b> |
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University of Illinois at Chicago Center for the Advancement of Teaching Excellence (CATE) 2024

CATE Executive Director finalist evaluator

University of Illinois at Chicago Graduate Student Council 2022

Department of Biological Sciences representative

Moorpark College Accreditation Committee 2016

*Supervisor:* Political science faculty member Jack Miller

Moorpark College Associated Students President and Director of Constitution and Rules 2015

Created weekly board meeting agenda, directed each weekly board meeting, attended California statewide community college conferences, regularly gave school-wide presentations, hosted school-wide events, enforced Robert's Rules & the Brown Act during regular meetings.

COPE Health Scholar 2015

Experience in the acute care unit, subacute care unit, mother/infant unit, and emergency department. Responsible for the following, including but not limited to: attaching electrodes to patients' chest in appropriate position, helping to move patients, writing daily chart for medical staff, picking up and delivering laboratory samples, quickly welcoming and assessing emergency room patients for medical staff, and communicating with non-communicative patients through eyeblinks and a computer system.

Health scholars time sheets head coordinator

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## MENTORING

December, 2023-present:

**Mentee:** Julia Begler, undergraduate pre-nursing student at the University of Illinois at Chicago. I was Julia's prior instructor and recommended her for acceptance into UIC's nursing program.

July, 2023-present:

**Mentee:** Keioko Haynes, undergraduate engineering student at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Introduced her to coding and GIS.

**Mentee:** Ayush Jain, high school senior in Chicago, IL. Introduced him to coding and GIS.

December, 2022-present:

**Mentee:** Isha Mehta, undergraduate pre-med student at the University of Illinois at Chicago. I was Isha's previous instructor and recommended her to work in Jarrad Hampton-Marcell's laboratory at UIC.

## SOCIETY AFFILIATIONS

- (1) American Geophysical Union
  - (2) Ecological Society of America (statistical ecology)
  - (3) Society for the Study of Evolution
  - (4) American Statistical Association (statistical learning and data science, Bayesian statistical science)
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