

Brooke Bauman National Park Service



UNC-Chapel Hill, Class of 2021

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Describe your current position:

I have been a Scientists in Parks Intern with the Ocean and Coastal Resources Program of the National Park Service for about one year now. I am based in Fort Collins, CO. Throughout my internship, I have been working on a project to build a spatial database of restoration case studies across 88 Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes parks.

For this project, I organize meetings with coastal parks to discuss their restoration projects then I write case study briefs to summarize the information we gather. We plan to share lessons learned and successes associated with completed/ongoing restoration projects to provide support to parks that are planning to conduct similar projects.

What skills did you develop at UNC/Collaboratory that are useful in your current job?

I was a communications intern for two years with the Collaboratory. During that time I assisted in the development of a strategic communication plan for the Collaboratory. I also enjoyed learning about COVID-19 research projects across North Carolina by interviewing researchers and writing about their work. Conducting interviews, navigating ArcGIS Online, managing a project timeline, and writing clearly and concisely are skills that I developed while working with the Collaboratory and now practice in my position with the National Park Service.

What do you miss about Carolina and Chapel Hill?

I miss my family and friends in North Carolina! And April is one of my favorite months to be in Chapel Hill because I love the spring weather, flowers, and green foliage, so I miss being in town during April in particular.

Can you share any lessons learned as a recent graduate about the job search process?

During my job search, I was looking for a position in my field of interest (environmental communications) where I could learn from professional mentors and engage in consistent training opportunities. My advice to other recent graduates is to define what type of work environment and experience you are seeking after graduation, then reflect on which factors (type of work, location, salary, etc.) you want to prioritize selecting for and which you are willing to be flexible with.