Kenneth Jops

kjops2@illinois.edu

EDUCATION

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign   **August 2019-Present**
- Doctoral Program in Plant Biology
- GPA 4.0/4.0
- Focus on coursework in ecology, pure mathematics, and plant physiology

Northwestern University, Evanston IL   **September 2014-June 2018**
- Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics and Environmental Sciences
- GPA 3.62/4
- Completed MENU (advanced math sequence) each quarter for 3 years

RESEARCH & TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign   **August 2019-Present**
Teaching Assistant
- Led 4 discussion sections with 80 students in introductory biology
- Held weekly office hours to assist with homework and content questions
- Listed among Teachers Ranked as Excellent By Their Students each semester
- Participated in course feedback and lesson design

Ongoing Research
- Coordinated with advisor and lab members to design self-led projects
- Designed models to test the interaction of various biological processes, including life history strategies and dispersal limitation in plants, global climate change, and community interactions
- Implemented highly mathematical methods including results from non-negative matrix theory and stochastic processes

Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe IL   **June 2015-June 2018**
Research Assistant and Grant Recipient
- Completed honors thesis in statistical demography creating matrix population projection models
- Conducted studies in conservation ecology focused on rare and protected plant demographics
- Performed lab experiments and analyzed data in Excel and R
- Developed skills in graphics and data visualization in R
- Received 3, $3,500 competitive research grants for summers 2015-17
- Designed 2 self-led projects and reviewed existing literature to ensure impact in relevant field

Private Tutor, Evanston/Chicago IL   **January 2015-August 2019**
- Tutored over 15 students age 7-18 in mathematics, chemistry, statistics, vocabulary, and test preparation
- Self-promoted tutoring service online

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Students for Ecological and Environmental Development, Evanston IL
Co-Chair   **March 2016-May 2017**
- Served as lead executive for largest and oldest environmental club on Northwestern's campus
- Led executive board of an A-list student group and managed a $25,000+ budget
- Submit annual funding requests to student finance office in competition with other groups
- Organized campus-wide energy and water use reduction competition involving 8,000 undergrads

- Booked famous speakers such as Jeff Corwin and Bill McKibben for annual speaker series

Public Relations Director   **March 2015-May 2017, May 2017-June 2018**
- Led a committee that oversaw the promotion of events, service projects and recruitment efforts
- Conferred with other sustainability groups and university departments to compile weekly newsletter of campus events and opportunities
- Designed promotional materials including graphics and videos
- Led no-flyering initiative to reduce paper waste among student organizations

Weinberg College Student Advisory Board, Evanston IL   September 2017-September 2018
- Selected by Environmental Sciences Department as one of two students to represent department on college-wide board
- Determined major requirements and elective options for students in Environmental Sciences along with department chair
- Worked to expand mathematics and statistics offerings for students hoping to study Ecology within department

HONORS/AWARDS

- List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent By Their Students for Fall 2019, Spring 2020
- Departmental Honors in the Environmental Sciences for satisfying GPA requirement and completing honors thesis
- Dean's List 5/12 quarters at Northwestern
- 4 year, $5,000 William J. Cook scholarship recipient
- Finalist in NU Public Interest Program Fellowship

LABORATORY AND RESEARCH SKILLS

- Proficient in field GPS tagging (using Trimble mobile units)
- Experience identifying plants in field and taking census of plant species
- 2 years of laboratory chemistry including advanced Organic Chemistry sequence
- Proficient in Excel and R, beginner level Python, ArcGIS, for Mac OSX and Windows 10
- Highly proficient with Matrix Population Modelling
- Deep knowledge of theoretical probability, including 3 advanced and 2 graduate courses in probability and probabilistic analysis
- Highly skilled in stochastic and spatial models for competition, demographics

OTHER SKILLS/INTERESTS

- Conversational German
- Hobbies and interests include electronic music production, guitar/bass/mandolin, swimming, art history, classics