

**Katelyn's Environmental Career Encyclopedia**

## Table of Contents:

Summaries	4
Katie Milne	5
Sarah Goblirsh	7
Josh Balk	9
Chad Fields	11
Faith Luce	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Tim Skrotzki	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Jason Cox	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Adam Campbell	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Drew Krewman	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Joe Reinders	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Lynn Koch	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Candice Kucera	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Tyler Dursky	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Jim Weimer	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Carmen Finken	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Darrin Siefken	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Gordan Krueger	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Jessica Plagsdale	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
The Quest for Sustainability	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Riley Plagge	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Scott Beason	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>



## Summaries

### Katie Milne:

Katie's presentation was primarily about strategies for being a better student and how to stop procrastinating. She gave seven strategies and how they can be utilized.

### Sarah Goblirsh:

Sarah's presentation was about resumes and how the job search works. She gave advice on how to best apply yourself with a resume and some tips on how to get ahead.

### Josh Balk:

Josh's job seems really interesting. I don't know if I would want to do a lot of grant writing but that seems to be a theme with jobs in the environmental field no matter where you go. I do like that his job focuses on public outreach and working with landowners.

### Chad Fields:

It was interesting to see that Chad had a lot of the same professors that I currently have. His work is also a lot of paperwork and paperwork isn't something that I necessarily want to do for the rest of my life. He is in a more administrative position compared to Josh so it makes sense that he is doing more paperwork.

## Katie Milne

UNI Student Success and Retention (102 Gilcrest)

### Department Mission:

*Taking Down Barriers and Doing the Best as Possible*

### Members:

Joellen Hatchett (Orientation), Katie Milne (Assistant), Sam Pfab (Graduates), and Kristin Woods (Director)

### Ongoing Support:

1:1 Meetings

They will always help if possible and push you in the right direction

Snacks and couches, normal business hours (M-F 8-4:30)

### Getting Stuff Done Strats:

1. Time Boxing/Blocking
  - a. Every minute of the day is planned
  - b. Google Calendar is the main use
2. Pomodoro Technique
  - a. Set a Timer for 25 minutes
  - b. Take a 5-minute break
  - c. Repeat 4x then take a 15-30 min break
3. Not-To-Do List
  - a. List the things you do not want to do
  - b. Sticky Notes on your computer and your door so you will see them and they will remind you
4. PM Brain Dump
  - a. Write down all of the things in your head so your brain will let you sleep since you won't be focusing on remembering
  - b. Tidy up your room and clean up notifications will also help
5. No More Zero Days
  - a. Do something every day even if it is getting out of bed in the morning and eating something
  - b. This is the one I always use
6. Project Breakdown
  - a. Write down the steps of a project and make a timeline
  - b. Crossing things off a list is a great feeling
  - c. Helps with the stress of a large project and not knowing when to start

## 7. Done List

- a. Write down everything you've done in a day even if it is small
- b. A resume is like a life done list

### Academic Support:

Learning Center in Rod Library  
Tlc.uni.edu

### Asking for Help:

Have a support person  
Take care of yourself first

## Sarah Goblirsh

UNI Student Career Center (102 Gilcrest)

### Mapping your Future:

What do you control?:

Academics

3.0 or above is the aim

Professional

2 experiences or more such as internships, volunteer work, and more

Choices: Target or Pre-Po? Weigh the pros and cons and go from there

Personal

2 personal/leadership experiences

Choices: Fun Group or Major Focused Group?

Successful People:

Know themselves

Are interesting

Have a plan

Connect the Dots

Are resilient and positive

### Resumes:

Be very focused on what you are applying for

General Rules/Guidelines:

Writing it for a reader to see your qualifications

Grammar, punctuation, and spelling must be correct

Cover Letters are super-specific

Typically are one page

Top/Left Loaded

Consistent use of text elements (bold, italics, etc)

Each word should add value

Students typically start with education then list experience

Focus on your skills rather than tasks

You can use projects in your resume

### The Job Search:

Focus in the Search:

Name 5 interesting places/people you would enjoy working with

What are you good at? What aspects of current jobs do you enjoy?

Do you have the right experience to get the job that you want?

Where to Start:

Where do you want to live?

What kind of job duties do you want to do? Learn?

Are you ready for the job search? Do you have a resume, interview stories, an application plan?

Who do you know?

The People Factor:

Most applications go through a computer software before they reach a person

Ideas to meet interesting people

Current Network, Young Pros, LinkedIn. Ask for information from people, not a job

Interesting Places:

Chambers, News Articles, Google



## Josh Balk

Watershed Coordinator

### Background:

Grew up north of Waterloo, Passion for the outdoors, Loved Dinos, Watched PBS and Nature Docs, Was in Scouts  
 Fall in 2003: Hawkeye CC  
 Inspired by Dawn Keller's Environmental issues  
 Transferred to UNI for Earth Science  
 2008: Bachelor in Earth Science

### Jobs

#### **MacFarlane Park**

90 hrs, Park Maintenance,  
 Fundraiser event

#### **Hartman Reserve Nature Center**

Researching and organizing  
 public activities, program still  
 used

#### **City of Waterloo Forestry Department**

40hrs/week, management of city  
 trees, planting city flower beds,  
 vehicle and equipment  
 maintenance

#### **April 2009-March 2015**

Testing America (Environ lab)  
 Prep analyst/sample analyst

Instruments

Field Service (position got  
 eliminated)

Project manager (sat in front of a  
 laptop and wanted to quit)

#### **Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District**

Non-Regulatory Gov Entity  
 2 grant-funded watershed  
 projects

#### **March 2015-March 2020**

Watershed Conservationist for  
 Dry Run Creek

Grant and report writer

Accountant

Lots of different things

### DNR:

Basin Coordinator for (north) eastern Iowa  
 Supporting watershed projects and coordinators  
 More Administrative  
 Zoom meeting instead of traveling  
 March 2020-present ish

### Parts of the job:

Work 1:1 with landowners  
 "Helping people help the land"

Make plans and follow through with them

Finances

Need funds somehow

Grants are a lot of pages

Community outreach and engagement

Work with many different organizations to make lots of connections

Not always DNR but there are environmental agencies

You would still be recognized and have a good chance

Federal is easier

### The Future:

Water is always in the news

Gov is hard to work with

AG is a big factor with water quality

The weather is a factor

Job security is guaranteed due to constant work

Streams and lakes are needed to make the cut with quality

Changing weather and the

increase in precip

Population growth

Regulation is a tough thing to work with for private citizens

### Sustainability:

Community

Environmental justice

Climate Resiliency

Source Water

Triple Bottom Line (profit, people, planet)

Collabs and Partnerships

“Doing more with less”

Impact that Iowa has on the Gulf of Mexico

### Student Recs:

Don't stress about grades

Take every opportunity to get out there

Get involved

Volunteer

Get connected

Enjoy the outdoors

Reach out to orgs in your area of interest

Professional Development and

Being involved looks good on resumes

Free Webinars and other online programs

Many opportunities private and public

### Coworker and Hires:

Enthusiasm and Passion

Customer Service

Team-oriented

Ability to work independently

Attention to detail

Experiences

Knowledge and work on the job

## Chad Fields

Hydrogeologist, Water Supply Section for the Iowa DNR

### Background:

Farm kid, Wrestler, and enjoyed Stephen King

### College:

“All science teacher” aka many ed classes

Didn't like teaching

Went to Kirkwood for a year

Many, many jobs (lumber yard, Hardees, grounds crew)

Came back to UNI in '99 as an Earth Science major

Important Classes:

Astronomy with Hockey, Oceanography with Walters, Meteorology with Czanretzki, Capstone with Brant, Comparative Anatomy with Nuss, Paleontology with Anderson, Hydrogeology with Iqbal

Outside of Class:

Sigma Gamma Epsilon, TA for Hockey, Geological Society of Iowa (RIP), Earth Day activities, Geological Society of America Regional and National Conferences, Music

### “Try-a-holic” Time:

Internships, events, activities, conferences, summer employment, and field trips

### Work in the Environmental Field:

UNI Lakes Study

3+ Summer long project

Combo of UNI Dept of Chem, Bio, and Earth Science

Worked with Iqbal

End of Undergraduate

Didn't know what to do

Took GREs, and looked into grad programs

UNI had an M.S. Environment Science program

Iqbal was the advisor

Grad School

2001-2003 and loved it

Worked on the STORM project

He had to run his own labs

Looked at land use and compared Nitrate and phosphorus

Finished the analysis in 2003, found employment

### Iowa Geological Survey

Began in the 1800s to discover Iowa's natural resources and eventually changed focus to water

In 2003 there were about 45 people working there in four sections

#### Source Water Protection Programs

Characterized Iowa's aquifers, model groundwater, and such

Said yes to a lot of projects

Wrote reports

A lot of groundwater projects

Outreach and educational programs

### Time Change:

In 2011, there was a shift in public interest and funding cuts which led to layoffs

In 2014, Iowa Geological Survey moved from DNR to UofI and cut ¾ of the staff

Landed in the Iowa DNR for water supply, connections helped

### Iowa DNR:

Merger of multiple agencies in the 80s

Water supply work:

Use of a lot of water needs a permit

Drought regulations

Writing rules sucks, do not recommend

Took a class on environmental law and it was helpful

COVID led to questions about our environmental progress and water became to be seen as a commodity

### If I Knew?:

Do more things

Find a mentor

Confidence (Fake it till you make it)

Politics are everywhere

Get goals and direction