

Rebecca Shirley Winkler (2016)

## Bio

### Education

**Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT**

*Expected May, 2016*

Bachelor of Arts Candidate

Major: Neuroscience and Behavior Program; Feminist, Gender, Sexuality Studies

Program GPA: 3.72/4.00

*Relevant Coursework: Principles of Biology I/II with lab, Evolutionary and Ecological Bioinformatics, Animal, Theories/Human Fictions, Gender and History, Reproductive Politics and the Family in Africa, Principles of Chemistry with lab Genomics, Biology of Women, Principles of Psychology*

### Experience

**Middletown Veterinary Hospital, Middletown, CT**

Sept. 2013 - current

Veterinary Assistant

- Assist in care for boarding animals
- Hold animals for blood draws and vaccinations
- Restock and sanitize exam rooms

**Waukeela Camp For Girls, Eaton Center, NH**

Summer, 2013

Horseback Riding Instructor

- Cared for 9 adult horses, including one pregnant mare
- Maintained the stables and arena
- Taught riding lessons for girls age 7-15
- Planned programs both for horseback riding and all camp activities.

**Watoto Wa Baraka Orphanage, Makuyu, Kenya**

Summer, 2011

Farmhand

- Assisted in the care for the 6 pigs, 3 cows and many rabbits at the orphanage
- Planted spinach, tomatoes, and kale
- Built a trellis system for a greenhouse growing tomatoes
- Ran education enrichment for the children after their regular school day
- Coached girls at soccer

**Physics and Biology Tutor, Lower Merion, PA**

Sept. 2011 - June 2012

- Tutor for an 11th grade physics student and a 7th grade biology student 2 times a week during the evenings.

**Converse Winkler Architecture Llc.,**Bala Cynwyd, PA      Sept. 2010-June 2012  
Administrative Assistant

- Arranged scheduling for the architects in the firm
- Coordinated with vendors for samples
- Organized filing system.
- Expanded the recycling program to encompass all paper and plastic waste.

## **Skills**

### **Animal care**

- Experience caring for large and small animals, both as owner, house sitter, dog walker, and barn staff

### **Leadership/Collaboration/Communication**

- Highly experienced working in teams and groups
- Varsity Captain of both Soccer and Track and Field in 2012, leading both teams to record-breaking seasons.

### **Lab Experience**

- Class experience in biology lab, organic chemistry lab, chemistry lab. Physics Lab.

### **Technology Skills**

- Bioinformatics Programs: BLAST, QUIM, ODOSE, MEGA 5.2
- Presentation programs: PowerPoint, Prezi
- Social Networking
- WordPress

Rebecca Shirley Winkler (2016)

## **Program Proposal**

### **1. Provide a brief overview of the organization for which you will intern or program/project you are developing.**

The Kerulos Center is a non-profit founded by Dr. Gay Bradshaw on the principle of uniting science and compassion for animals ([www.kerulos.org](http://www.kerulos.org)). Dr. Bradshaw pioneered the field of trans-species psychology by documenting and diagnosing human-caused post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in free living elephants in African and Asia. Sustained and multiple psychological trauma has caused epidemic elephant breakdown in all countries of origin. Trans-species psychology has been formally extended to other sentient species and is now regarded as a core concept for informing conservation science, veterinary medicine, and other fields related to nonhuman animal wellbeing and policy. Additional to its own, Kerulos partners its research and education programs with sanctuaries as well as individuals and animal protection organizations dedicated to promoting wildlife wellbeing nationally and internationally. A core philosophy of Kerulos is *learning in service*.

For the practicum portion of my internship, I will volunteer at one of Kerulos' international partners, the Boon Lott Elephant Sanctuary, located in Sukhothai, North Thailand (<http://www.blesele.org/>). Boon Lott is a well- established and respected rescue and care facility for elephants who are victims of human abuse. Its goal is to help individual elephants rehabilitate emotionally, socially, and physically. Currently Boon Lott is home to 17 elephants, each of whom receives individual care. Boon Lott also actively advocates for the cessation of practices that harm elephants, and is in the process of building a mobile veterinary clinic to increase accessibility of medical care for elephants outside sanctuary in Thailand.

### **2. Briefly provide details of the internship or experience, including responsibilities and tasks.**

The internship consists of three parts, for the first month I will complete the education portion of the internship by becoming an expert in the work of Dr. Bradshaw and trans-species psychology. Through the Kerulos learning center I will complete two intensive courses: A Meeting of Minds: Fundamentals of Trans-species Psychology, and Inner Sanctuary: Trans-species Traumatology. These two courses will be taken online via lectures provided by the Kerulos learning center and will be accompanied by seven hours of one on one mentoring sessions via skype with Dr. Bradshaw to discuss the lectures and supplemental readings. At the end of the course a final exam will be administered and must be passed in order for me to go on to complete the Practicum section of the internship.

The Practicum will be completed at Boon Lott Elephant Sanctuary in Thailand where I will get hands on experience in all the aspects of trans species psychology I

will have learned during the education period. During the education process I will develop the specifics of the project I will work on in Thailand with Dr. Bradshaw once I begin the internship but it will center around the 10 principles of sanctuary and how they are put into practice at Boon Lott and how they work on the 17 Boon Lott Elephants. One of the key ideas to trans-species psychology is that traumatized animals can be rehabilitated. The way sanctuaries are designed and the practices of sanctuary are what create an environment where Elephants are able to be rehabilitated. Understanding what about Boon Lott is so successful at creating a safe environment for rehabilitation of traumatized elephants will be useful in the design and improvement of shelter environments in Areas with elephant presence including Asian and African elephants. I will spend a month in Thailand working 7 days a week on my project under the guidance of Katherine Connor, the Boon Lott founder, and Dr. Bradshaw.

Once I return home I will complete the third portion of the internship, writing up my findings to be co- authored by Dr. Bradshaw and published. Dr. Bradshaw and I will correspond and work together to write a paper that can be published and add to the field of Trans-species psychology and conservation.

### **3. How have you communicated with the employer and determined mutual interest?**

I contacted Dr. Bradshaw via e-mail and over the phone to express my interests in her field of study and she suggested that The Kerulos Center internship would provide the foundation for initial work in the field of trans- species psychology which I hope to be involved in in the future as a veterinarian as it is becoming incredibly important to veterinary care. I have also been in contact via Email with Ms. Katherine Connor the founder of Boon Lott and have discussed costs of living in Thailand and the logistics of staying and working at Boon Lott.

### **4. How will this experience enhance or broaden your career goals?**

Being able to complete this internship would provide experience in a field that I have been interested in since high school. I first read one of Dr. Bradshaw's works *Elephants on the Edge*<sup>1</sup>, which outlines her work on Elephant PTSD, when I was 17, and became fascinated with elephants and nonhuman animal sentience. Since that time, I have focused my energy on the possibility of becoming a large animal veterinarian so that I can someday use veterinary medicine to join in conservation efforts to save dwindling elephant populations in Africa and Southeast Asia. In the communication I have had with Dr. Bradshaw already I have learned how the fields of veterinary medicine and conservation are evolving with the continual increase in our knowledge of sentient species such as elephants and to make the biggest difference in elephant conservation I need to learn not only the physical nature of elephants but also the complex psyche of the incredibly complex species. At Wesleyan, I am currently following the pre-veterinary medicine track and hope to continue on to go to vet school. Learning about trans-species psychology will not

only help me to focus my veterinary career goals but give me a more well rounded biology and psychology background for the study of animals.

I have had previous practical experience that readies me for work in the veterinary field. For example, I have worked as a horse caretaker, and currently work as a veterinary assistant at a small animal clinic, but I have never had an opportunity like this to study wildlife, even though I hope to specialize in conservation medicine in veterinary school. Not only will this internship opportunity give me the incredible experience of working with wild elephants but it will also connect me with two amazing female leaders in the field of elephant conservation who will be able to share their immense knowledge and wealth of experiences with me. Dr. Bradshaw is the pioneer of this field and has broken huge barriers in the knowledge and understanding of sentient animals and is continuing to change the face of conservation biology while Ms. Katherine Connor is working on the ground with elephants in need and forging conservation and education efforts in north Thailand where elephants have been exploited for logging and tourism for decades. Boon Lott is regarded as a leading elephant sanctuary. Being able to learn from these two incredible women will give me firsthand experience in my future career.