

# CHARISSA V. JONES

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## EDUCATION

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**Ph.D. in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education** Anticipated 2024

Oregon State University – Corvallis, OR

Advisor: Dr. Cory Buxton

Dissertation Topic: Negotiating joy in outdoor education for marginalized and under-resourced communities.

**Master of Science – Environmental Studies**

2012

Antioch University New England – Keene, NH

Advisor: Dr. Tania M. Schusler

Thesis: Culture and Conservation from Practitioners’ Perspectives in the Plural Society of Suriname

**Bachelor of Arts – Environmental Studies**

2008

New College of Florida, the Honors College of the State of Florida System –Sarasota, FL

Advisor: Dr. Margaret D. Lowman

Honors Thesis: Water Bear, Water Bear, What Do You See: The Implementation of Tardigrades Towards a More Inclusive Science Experience

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Intersectionality ♦ Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility, and Justice (EDIAJ) ♦ Critical Race Theory (CRT) ♦ School-family-community partnerships and engagement ♦ Teacher professional learning ♦ Understanding barriers and supports to outdoor, environmental, and science education participation for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color), disabled, and LGBTQIA+/queer communities

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Outreach and Inclusion Coordinator**

*Oregon State University Extension Service – Outdoor School / July 2018 – Present*

Working with local and statewide partners to develop and execute a comprehensive outreach plan that will support every school (and every student within each school) the opportunity to participate in high quality, culturally responsive and inclusive, and accessible Outdoor School (ODS) programming. Collaborating on the development and facilitation of professional development opportunities and curricula around Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) in outdoor and experiential education.

**Environmental Education Coordinator**

*Tualatin Riverkeepers / February 2016 – June 2018*

Developed and maintained a comprehensive education program that aligns with State and National goals and standards. Oversaw all aspects of the summer camp program including the development and delivery of age-appropriate curricula and activities. Maintained and developed partnerships with schools, community organizations, and other conservation organizations.

**Assistant Country Coordinator**

*GLOBE Suriname / May 2011 – July 2014*

Designed the re-launch of the GLOBE Program in Suriname. Developed a Needs Assessment for a creating successful and sustainable GLOBE Program in Suriname. Managed external and internal communications. Maintained and developed partnerships with indigenous, local, governmental, and international partners. Created spaces for indigenous, local, and regional stakeholders to engage together while strengthening their relationships as well as their scientific (Western, Surinamese, & Indigenous) knowledge.

**Environmental Education and Volunteer Intern**

*Manatee County Conservation Lands Management Department / January 2007 – January 2008*

Responsible for presenting a nature-based curriculum to children and parents, organizing volunteer events at the nature preserves, aiding in program marketing, attending outreach events, and creating promotional materials. The BioBlitz at Emerson Point was my project.

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**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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**Third Grade Teacher**

*Orange County Public Schools / August 2014 – February 2016*

Designed and delivered lessons plans based on Florida Standards and Common Core benchmarks. Utilized differentiated instruction and both formative and summative assessments to evaluate student work. Actively engaged with the school and community to create successful environments for students to thrive.

**Assistant Teacher**

*Misty Forest Enrichment Center / October 2008 – January 2009*

As the assistant teacher, I aided the Lead Educator with teaching and delivering hands-on interactive EE lessons. I integrated relevant environmental science and urban ecology concepts into lessons. I led and supervised youth in outdoor activities and service projects. Maintain and organize supplies, equipment, tools, worksheets, journals, and other materials necessary for implementing lessons.

**Course Facilitator & Student-Teacher**

*Science Outreach for Students (SOS) Program at New College of Florida / April 2004 – May 2008*

SOS is a student-initiated and student-run science education enrichment program targeted at improving local k-12 student performance and interest in science and the environment by incorporating the ecological sciences in the k-12 school curriculum through NCF student volunteers. As a Student Teacher,

I took on all teacher responsibilities for elementary and middle school teachers, including curriculum creation and implementation, and participated in a daylong K-12 teacher workshop, which included student presentations and a canoe tour at Myakka River State Park in Sarasota.

### **Pedagogy in Environmental Education in Sarasota, FL**

*January 2005*

This four-week independent research project served as a continuation of the Science Outreach of Students (SOS) Program. Along with another student, I taught courses in environmental education to seventh and eighth-grade students (one group was gifted and the other was regular) at Booker Middle School. The lessons varied from Insect-Plant Interactions to Fisheries Policies to General Marine Biology.

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## **FIELD & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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### **Master's Project Research**

*Culture and Conservation from Practitioners' Perspectives: A Preliminary Look at a Plural Society*

*January 2011 – October 2012*

This master's project investigates whether or not culture has an influence on conservation to better understand how to create and maintain successful community-based conservation programs and eventually, better regionally-based conservation programs. I utilized grounded theory methodology to interview local conservation practitioners about their experiences with and opinions of the interaction between culture and conservation in the area.

### **Research Intern**

*Green Heritage Fund Suriname (GHFS) / May 2011 – August 2011*

As a Research Intern for GHFS, I worked with the Dolphin Programme and the Xenarthra (sloths, anteaters, and armadillos) Rehabilitation Program. The Dolphin Programme focuses on collecting baseline data on the wild dolphin population in the Suriname River and conducting educational riverboat tours on Sundays. I acted as an educational tour guide answering questions from the general public, putting together educational materials and snacks. For the Xenarthra Rehabilitation Program, I learned how to take care of the daily needs of Three-Toed Sloths (and the occasional Two-Toed Sloth). I was given first-hand knowledge and experience working across cultures in Suriname, with non-profits, communities, and government officials.

### **Undergraduate Honors Thesis Research**

*Water Bear, Water Bear, what do you see?: The Implementation of Tardigrades as a means towards a more inclusive science experience / August 2007 – April 2008*

This senior thesis investigates whether or not Tardigrades, also known as Water Bears, can be used to engage elementary school children in appreciating, exploring, and investigating local ecosystems by comprising a pilot environmental education program that uses Tardigrades to help students become comfortable within their local environments (schoolyards, parks, nature preserves, etc).

**BioBlitz Event Coordinator**

*Emerson Point Preserve / January 2007 – April 2007*

As an Environmental Education and Volunteer Intern with the Manatee County CLM Department I implemented and coordinated the first annual bioblitz at one of the County's twelve preserves. I was responsible for advertising, recruiting local flora and fauna experts, community members, and undergraduate students for this 12-hour event. The culmination of the bioblitz was turning the collected data into usable formats for visitors to the preserve such as field guides of our different organisms.

**Field Guide**

*New College of Florida / August 2005 – May 2008*

Lead educational focusing on Hammock Ecology and Tree Canopy Studies at Myakka River State Park for local and international high school students, doctoral-level scientists, and non-academic visitors. Lead senior citizen and children's tours through Red Bug Slough Nature Preserve as part of an effort to raise community awareness about local ecology and serve as an introduction to environmental sciences.

**Research Assistant to Dr. Margaret D. Lowman**

*New College of Florida / August 2005 – May 2008*

Developed and presented environmental education for the K-12 communities and the general public. Lead nature tours through Red Bug Slough, Myakka Rivers State Park, and the Carlton Reserve. Presented conservation information dealing with rainforest and canopy ecology at schools and various fairs. Collected data by administering surveys, interviews, or running research protocols. Various other research and tasks as directed.

**BioBlitz Volunteer and Event Organizer**

*New College of Florida / September 2004 & May 2005*

I was a member of the Entomology Team in a 12 hour bio-specimen survey at Myakka River State Park in 2005, a member of the Entomology Team in a 12 hour Organism Survey at Crosley Estate, Sarasota, FL in 2004. Both blitzes were used as educational tools for the ecology students at New College. The Crosley Estate Blitz was used to catalog the different organisms in the area before the University of South Florida built its commuter campus in the area.

**Research Assistant**

*"Population Dynamics of Leatherback Sea Turtles in Galibi, Suriname" / June – August 2004*

This project was a 6 week independent volunteer research experience in Galibi, Suriname, South America. The research project was a shared venture between IUCN, WWF, STINASU, and a group of Amerindians, Caribs, from Galibi working towards sea turtle conservation, specifically, Leatherbacks. The research consisted of conducting daily and nightly walks on the beach to find and tag sea turtles, as well as checking the shorelines in the morning for nests, excavating nests, and discussing the importance of sea turtle conservation in Galibi with Amerindians.

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## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

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### Oral Presentations

**Jones, C. V.** and Mendenhall, J. (2019). *What is 'Welcoming': Looking at our implicit Biases as Instructors*. Multnomah Education Service District (MESD) Outdoor School Consortium Education Talks. Portland, Oregon. March 11, 2019.

Mendenhall, J. and **Jones, C. V.** (2019). *The State of Environmental Education Efforts Across Oregon and Beyond: Insights from the Oregon Environmental Literacy Program (OELP) and the Environmental Education Association of Oregon*. Linn-Benton Natural Resource Educator Working Group. Corvallis, Oregon. February 26, 2019.

**Jones, C. V.** (2019). *Outdoor School: Programming for ALL*. Environmental Leadership for Youth (ELY) – 2019 Panel for Watershed Councils. Corvallis, Oregon. February 11, 2019.

LaCourse, I., Mendenhall, J., **Jones, C. V.**, & Dunham, R. (2016). *Cultural Awareness Workshop for Educators*. The Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge (TRNWR). Tualatin, OR. Two 3-day workshops.

**Jones, C.**, Lowman, M. D., & Evers, Z. (2008). *Science Outreach for Students: Connecting Local Schools to Ecology*. Festival of Scholarship: Celebrating Collaborative Inquiry Symposium. Consortium for Innovative Environments in Learning (CIEL). Bellingham, WA.

### Panel Presentations

**Jones, C. V.** and Mendenhall J. (2019). *Creating a More Inclusive Outdoor School Program and Environmental Literacy Plan*. Promoting an Inclusive Culture: When Organizations Prioritize Diversity and Inclusion Panel. 2019 Pacific Northwest Region United States Forest Service Annual Meeting. Grand Mound, Washington.

Wheeler, J., **Jones, C. V.**, and Silva, F. (2007). *SOS (Science Outreach for Students), An Undergraduate Mentoring Initiative for Middle School Science Classes*. No Child Left Indoors: Ecologists Linking Young People with Nature. Chairs: Margaret Lowman, New College of Florida and ESA EHRC Vice President, and Bob R. Pohlada, Ferrum College and ESA Education Section Chair. Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting, San Jose, CA.

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## CONTRIBUTED PRESENTATIONS

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(‡ not peer-reviewed)

### Oral Presentations

Brooks, S., Sabzalian, L. & **Jones, C. V.** (2019). *Critical Orientations in Outdoor Education and Indigenous Studies*. The National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME) Annual Conference. Tuscon, AZ.

Wilde, A., Gandour-Rood, R., **Jones, C. V.**, & Mendenhall, J. (2019). *What's in a Word? LGBTQ+ Inclusive Language in Environmental Education*. The North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) Annual Conference. Lexington, KY.

**Jones, C. V.**, Mendenhall, J., Wilde, A., & Gandour-Rood, R. (2019). *Queer 101: Allyship & Intersectionality*. The North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) Annual Conference. Lexington, KY.

Lyon, B., **Jones, C. V.**, & Hoffman, A. (2019). *Equity and Inclusion at Outdoor School: Using Investigative and Student-Centered Instruction to Create Equitable Learning Environments*. The Oregon Science Teachers Association (OSTA) Annual Conference. Eugene, OR. (workshop sessions canceled)

†Fonseca, A. L., Curtis, E., & **Jones, C. V.** (2018). *LGBTQ+: Supporting Youth and Families Panel*. The Oregon State University Extension Service Outreach and Engagement Annual Conference. Corvallis, OR.

Griset, O., Everett, E., **Jones, C. V.**, Mendenhall, J., Culpepper, S., Zocher, J., & Price, T. (2018). *Affiliate Strategies: Building a More Diverse, Equitable, and Inclusive Field*. The North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) Annual Conference. Spokane, WA.

**Jones, C. V.**, Mendenhall, J., & Gonzales, G. (2018). *Now What? Challenges and Successes of Strong Statewide EE Support*. The North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) Annual Conference. Spokane, WA

**Jones, C.** (2011). *Lessons Learned from Not Knowing Enough: Culture, Conservation, and Communication in Suriname*. Center for Tropical Ecology and Conservation (CTEC): Brown Bag Series. Antioch University New England. Keene, NH.

**Jones, C.** (2008). *Water Bear, Water Bear, What do you see?: The Implementation of Tardigrades Towards a More Inclusive Science Experience*. Bachelor's Defense. Environmental Studies Department, New College of Florida. Sarasota, FL.

**Jones, C. V.**, Lowman, M. D., Evers, Z. I. (2008). *Science Outreach for Students: Connecting Local Schools to Ecology*. The Consortium for Innovative Environments in Learning (CIEL) Student Symposium entitled Festival of Scholarship: Celebrating Collaborative Inquiry in Bellingham, WA.

### **Poster Presentations**

**Jones, C. V.**, Schusler, T. M. and Pool, M. S. (2011). *Culture and Conservation in a Plural Society: Perspectives from Local Practitioners*. The Society for Ecological Restoration's (SER) 4<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Ecological Restoration. Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico.

**Jones, C. V.**, Pool, M. S., and Berenos, G. (2011). *Relaunching GLOBE in Suriname: The Student Climate Research Campaign*. The GLOBE Annual Regional and Partner Meeting. Bethesda, MD.

**Jones, C. V.** (2008). *Water Bear, Water Bear, What do you see?: The Implementation of Tardigrades Towards a More Inclusive Science Experience*. The Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, WI.

**Jones, C. V.,** Dyer, J., Lowman, M. D., Miller, E. A., Evers, Z. I., Miller, E. (2008). *Science Outreach for Students: Connecting Outreach and Ecology*. The Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, WI.

Wheeler, J., Lowman, M. D., Silva, F., **Jones, C. V.,** Mitchell, C., and Miller, E. (2007). *Science outreach for students: Initiatives to connect local schools to ecology*. The Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting in San Jose, CA.

Lowman, M. D., Evers, Z. I.<sup>1</sup>, Mitchell, C., and **Jones, C. V.** (2007). *Out on a Limb: Forest Canopies*. The Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting in San Jose, CA.

**Jones, C. V.,** Lowman, M. D., Wheeler, J., Miller, E., Silva, F., Mitchell, C. (2006). *Out on a Limb - Forest Canopies, an informal science education exhibit*. The Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting in Memphis, TN.

Silva, F., Lowman, M. D., Wheeler, J., **Jones, C. V.,** Mitchell, C., Miller, E. (2006). *Science Outreach for Students: new initiatives to connect local schools to ecology*. The Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting in Memphis, TN.

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## FIELD TRIPS

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SEEDS\* Student Field Trip to the Coweeta LTER November 2 – 5, 2006  
This field trip highlighted the research of the Coweeta LTER (Long Term Ecological Research) Project.  
Athens, GA and Otto, NC

SEEDS\* Student Field Trip to the Sevilleta LTER Project November 10 –13, 2005  
This field trip highlighted the research of the Sevilleta LTER (Long Term Ecological Research) Project.  
Albuquerque, NM

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## AWARDS & GRANTS

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### Awards

CTEC Seed Scholarship for Master’s Thesis Pilot Research	2011
Sarasota County Conservation Award for Outstanding Environmental Education	2006
Science Outreach for Students (SOS)   Sarasota, FL	
Sarasota County Certificate of Appreciation	2005
Presented to the New College of Florida Science Outreach for Students (SOS) Program at the 13 <sup>th</sup> Annual Sarasota County Conservation Awards for efforts in conserving natural resources.	
Community Foundation of Sarasota Grant	2005

Co-authored a successful \$10,000 grant to create a base of operations for Science Outreach at New College of Florida and an outdoor, interactive teachers workshop.

### **Travel Grants**

Travel Assistance Package for GLOBE Annual Regional & Partner Meeting (Bethesda, MD)	2011
SEEDS* Travel Grant Recipient to 93 <sup>rd</sup> ESA Annual Meeting (Milwaukee, WI)	2008
Travel Grant for Consortium for Innovative Environments in Learning (CIEL) Symposium (Bellingham, WA)	2008
SEEDS* Travel Grant Recipient to SEEDS* Leadership Meeting Hosted by Dr. Nom Christensen   Durham, NC	2008
SEEDS* Travel Grant Recipient to ESA Annual Meeting (San Jose, CA)	2007
SEEDS* Travel Grant Recipient to Coweeta, LTER (Otto, NC)	2006
SEEDS* Travel Grant Recipient to ESA Annual Meeting (Memphis, TN)	2006
National Science Foundation Grant Recipient	2006
Out On A Limb – Forest Canopies: An ecology education canopy exhibit ( <a href="http://outonalimb-forestcanopies.com/">http://outonalimb-forestcanopies.com/</a> )   Sarasota, FL	
SEEDS* Travel Grant Recipient to Sevilleta LTER (Albuquerque, NM)	2005

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## **SERVICE**

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### **Public & Community Service**

Youth Mentoring Collaborative (YMC)	2016 – 2019
Outdoor School Advisory Council committee member	2017 – 2018
Gray Family Foundation: Environmental Education Advisory Committee	2020 – Present

### **Service to Professional Organizations**

NAAEE eePRO Young Professionals (YEP) moderator	2020 – Present
Environmental Education Association of Oregon (EEAO) Treasurer	2019 – Present
NAAEE eePRO Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (EDI) moderator	2018 – Present
NAAEE Affiliate Network Equity and Inclusion (EDI) subcommittee	2017 – Present
Environmental Education Association of Oregon (EEAO) Secretary	2017 – 2020

### **Grant Review Committee Member**

Gray Family Foundation: Environmental Education Program	2018 – Present
Metro: Nature in Neighborhoods Nature Education & Outdoor Experience	2018 – 2019

### **Conference Proposal Reviewer**

North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE)	2018– 2021
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### **Conference Planning Committee Member**

17 <sup>th</sup> GLOBE Annual Partner Meeting Planning Committee	2012 – 2013
Ecological Society of America (ESA) Student Section SEEDS* Co-Liaison	2011



## **Institutional Service**

Antioch University New England (AUNE) Student Alliance Chair

2011

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## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & BOARD MEMBERSHIPS**

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### **Professional Organizations**

North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE)	2016 – Present
Science Educators for Equity, Diversity, & Social Justice (SEEDS)	2022 – Present
National Association for Research in Science Teaching (NARST)	2022 – Present
The National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME)	2019 – Present
American Educational Research Association (AERA)	2022 – Present
National Science Teaching Association (NSTA)	2017 – Present
Oregon Science Teachers Association (OSTA)	2017 – Present
Ecological Society of America (ESA)	2005 – Present
Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics & Native Americans in Science	2022 – Present
Citizen Science Association (CSA)	2014 – Present
Society of Conservation Biology (SCB)	2012 – Present
Society for Restoration Ecology (SER)	2011 – Present
National Association of Multicultural Education (NAME)	2019 – Present
Critical Ethnic Studies Association (CESA)	2022 – Present

### **Board Memberships**

Environmental Education Association of Oregon	2016 – Present
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\*SEEDS (Strategies for Ecology, Education, Development, and Sustainability) is the student organization of the Ecological Society of America, which recently won the U.S. Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring.