



Kiera. F. Givens

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Summary

A Fellow and Project Assistant at Meridian Institute with experience working on environmental and socioeconomic marine issues in the government and academic sectors. Graduated with high distinction from the University of Virginia with a degree in Environmental Science and Anthropology. Studies and work experience have focused on marine ecology, environmental imaginaries, and science communication.

Meridian Experience

Meridian Institute

2017–Present

Meridian Institute designs and facilitates collaborative processes that help diverse parties identify critical issues, build relationships and trust, construct innovative solutions, and implement durable decisions. These collaborative processes address challenges at the local, state, national, and international levels, and involve leaders from government agencies, industry, nongovernmental organizations, and international institutions. Meridian also assists organizations in conducting strategy development and planning.

Fellow and Project Assistant

Provides research, writing, and support for policy dialogues, negotiations, and strategy development projects involving facilitators and outside parties. Assists in the preparation of reports, meeting summaries, meeting materials, press releases, and other communications. Specific project highlights include:

- Member of the Meridian team serving as a secretariat to the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative, a collaborative effort of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission. The primary goal of the Joint Initiative is to accelerate the pace of change that results in meaningful ocean policy reform.
- Please see <http://merid.org/staff/kgivens> for a full list of projects completed.

Previous Experience

University of Virginia

Charlottesville, Virginia 2017

Independent Researcher

Designed, completed, and presented an individual research project titled "Scaling-up Short-term Observations of *Crassostrea virginica* Filtration in Harris Creek, MD to Understand Long-term Significance." Published results in senior thesis.

Independent Researcher

Produced research report entitled "Crossing Divides: The roles of facilitation and joviality in mediating tensions between inclusion and efficiency in stakeholder meetings." Traveled to the Maryland Eastern shore to conduct field research.

University Guide Service

Charlottesville, Virginia 2014-2017

Tour Guide, Outreach Chair

Lead admissions tours and historical tours of the University of Virginia. Organized the Colonnade Ball, a charity event that raised \$3000 for the UVA Memorial for Enslaved Laborers campaign. Served as a liaison between the Guide Service, the greater UVA community, and the greater Charlottesville community. Worked to diversity Guide Service membership. Developed African-American history tour content.

Maryland Sea Grant & University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science

Cambridge, Maryland 2016

Research Experience for Undergraduates Fellow

Designed, completed, and presented an individual research project titled "Observing and detecting *Crassostrea virginica* filtration over a restored oyster reef in Harris Creek, MD" that informed models of Chesapeake Bay oyster filtration used in the oyster fishery policy making decision process. Presented research at the 2017 Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO) International meeting.

University of Virginia Department of Environmental Science

Charlottesville, Virginia 2014-2016

Research Assistant

Conducted a supervised independent literature review of multi-trophic aquaculture. Assisted in the processing and analysis of seagrass samples from the 2015 synoptic survey of Hog Island, VA. Assisted in research on the effects of storm events on nutrient concentrations and algal populations in Beaver Creek, Charlottesville, VA.

Anheuser-Busch Coastal Research Center

Oyster, Virginia 2015

Research Intern

Conducted long-term ecological research on changes in salt marsh elevation and species distribution over time utilizing laser and GIS technology. Assisted in other ABCRC projects including yearly

fish sampling, yearly biomass sampling, and studies on the trophic ecology, nutrient cycling, and productivity of the Hog Island Bay area.

**South Carolina Department of
Natural Resources**

Charleston, South Carolina

2014

MIMES Research Intern

Designed, completed, and presented an individual research project titled "Effects of soybean meal dietary inclusion on intestinal morphology and growth of red drum, *Sciaenops ocellatus*." Presented research at 2015 ASLO International Meeting. Worked in fish husbandry and facilities management. Maintained and operated a 28-tank recirculating system.

Education

University of Virginia

B.S., Environmental Science, with High Distinction

Second Major: Anthropology

Raven Society, Ridley Scholar, Echols Scholar

2017