


# EVAN KURAS

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*evaluator, ecologist, and educator, focused on social change in urban ecosystems*

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## EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS – AMHERST (UMass), College of Natural Resources, Amherst, MA

**Masters of Science in Environmental Conservation** (February 2019) GPA = 4.00/4.00

- Concentration in Environmental Policy and Human Dimensions
  - Committee: Paige Warren (Env. Conservation), Charles Schweik (Public Policy), and Jennifer Randall (Education)
  - Relevant Coursework: Analysis of Env. Data, Biostatistics, Design and Implementation of Surveys, Qualitative Research Methods, Methods in Geographic Information Science (GIS), Public Engagement and Communication
- Environmental Conservation Graduate Fellowship recipient (2015-2016)  
National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) recipient (2016-2018)

BOSTON UNIVERSITY, College of Arts and Sciences and Kilachand Honors College, Boston, MA

**Bachelors of Arts in Biology** (May 2014) Summa Cum Laude; Dean's List; GPA = 3.88/4.00

- Specialization in Ecology and Conservation Biology
- Trustee Scholarship recipient (full tuition merit scholar)  
CITI Human Subjects Protection Training (until Feb 2021)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP: Greater Boston Evaluation Network, Massachusetts Environmental Education Society, North American Association for Environmental Education

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## EVALUATION AND RESEARCH

**Trees for Watertown (TFW) Teens for Trees (T4T) Summer Program** – Watertown, MA (Summer 2018)

Program Evaluator

- With TFW leadership, developed theory of change for growing teens into tree advocates
- Evaluated 7-week street tree monitoring and outreach program via pre/post online surveys, photovoice focus groups, and outreach planning exercises
- Identified program strengths and actionable future opportunities aligned with teen interests
- Co-produced 50-pg. report and 1-pg. summary for stakeholders and town officials

**University of Massachusetts** – Amherst, MA (Sep 2015 – Feb 2019)

Graduate Student Researcher

*Experiencing Nature in and out of School*

- Evaluated impact of ECOS environmental education program in 10 urban elementary schools (~600 students)
- Created logic model to help stakeholders understand how program outcomes are achieved
- Designed, implemented, and analyzed surveys to understand how exposure to and experience with biodiversity during and beyond ECOS influenced environmental behaviors and attitudes
- Used spatial GIS data to understand geographic patterns in survey responses
- Conducted qualitative interviews with ECOS alumni currently in college
- Uncovered patterns in what students do after ECOS and why
- Authored 55-pg. report and presented results to teachers, administrators, and community groups
- Created research-informed bilingual resource for parents to reinforce ECOS activities
- Mentored eight undergraduate students doing senior projects or research for credit; students processed surveys, created information resources, and wrote final reports. One produced a podcast!
- Led bi-monthly lab meetings for undergraduates to share project updates and read and discuss relevant literature to contextualize their work (Spring 2017)

### *Global Patterns of Urban Biodiversity and Socioeconomic Inequality*

- Conducted meta-analysis using fuzzy-set Qualitative Comparative Analysis (fsQCA) to understand how economic inequality shapes urban biodiversity in 34 cities throughout the world
- Interpreted and coded 49 case studies in which researchers have documented relationships between inequality and biodiversity on the city scale
- Synthesizing key mechanisms and useful typologies for urban planners
- Shared findings via two conference presentations and two peer-reviewed papers (currently in prep.)
- Managed team of seven faculty collaborators; led meetings, kept deadlines, moved the project along
- Supervised four students doing research for credit; students helped code case studies and gather in-depth information about each city (history, demographics, climate, urban form, etc.)

### *The Green Light Project* (Fall 2015 – Summer 2016)

- Designed wearable sensors to monitor personal exposure to nature by detecting green light
- Supervised a team consisting of one undergraduate student and five high school students to develop, test, and calibrate sensors

### **Arizona State University** – Phoenix, AZ (Aug 2014 - 2016)

#### Visiting Researcher

#### *Individually Experienced Temperatures (IETs) in Phoenix, AZ*

- Successfully scaled pilot project (below) measuring the Individually Experienced Temperatures (IETs) of 80 residents within five Phoenix-area neighborhoods
- Interviewed homeless individuals about their experience participating in an IET monitoring campaign
- Discovered unmeasured risk factors and within-group variability to a public health hazard
- Developed and distributed personalized report-back to research participants about their IETs as well as those of their neighbors
- Managed and trained team of 8 undergraduate student researchers who recruited and interviewed subjects, collected IETs, made ethnographic observations, and processed, analyzed, and synthesized dataset; oversaw and mentored creation of 8 original research papers and posters
- Host: Dr. David Hondula (Policy Informatics & Geography)
- Funding: Central Arizona-Phoenix Long-Term Ecological Research Program (CAP LTER) NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU); Quick Response grant from the Natural Hazards Center at University of Colorado at Boulder; Center for Policy Informatics (CPI)

### **Boston University** – Boston, MA (Fall 2012 – Fall 2014)

#### Independent Researcher

#### *IETs in Boston, MA*

- Piloted novel interdisciplinary method to measure IETs in Boston's South End neighborhood
- Used temperature sensors, interviews, and ethnographic field observations to understand the heterogeneity of heat exposure and vulnerability within an urban area
- Organized educational and policy-related outreach events in the South End including public lectures, walking tours, classes, newspaper articles, and a twitter presence @temptalker #BYOThermometer
- Advisors: Drs. Japonica Brown-Saracino (Sociology) and Lucy Hutyra (Geography)
- Funding: Boston University Student Research Award Grant

### **Universidad San Francisco de Quito** – Quito, Ecuador (Spring 2013)

#### *Tropical Ecology Program Study Abroad Program*

- Investigated aspects of tropical montane, coastal, and rainforest ecology
- Designed numerous independent research projects in small groups

### **Georgetown University** – Washington, DC (Summer 2012)

#### Wimp Salt Marsh Ecology Lab NSF REU Researcher

- Implemented a decomposition study of smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) within an experimentally fertilized salt marsh and designed and executed a salt marsh snail (*Melampus bidentatus*) population assessment
- Supervised two high school volunteers in processing samples from the field

**Boston University** – Boston, MA (Spring 2011 – Spring 2012)

Sorenson Molecular Evolution Lab NSF REU Researcher

- Investigated phylogenetic and population dynamics of the Afrotropical brood-parasitic cuckoo finch (*Anomalospiza imberbis*) through PCR and associated DNA analysis techniques; wrote programs in Python

**Boston University** – Boston, MA (Spring 2012)

Primack Plant Ecology Lab Volunteer Research Assistant

- Surveyed trees, shrubs, and vines at the Arnold Arboretum for spring leaf out phenology

## **PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS, PRESS**

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### **Academic Publications (5 out of 5; 4 more in preparation)**

- **Kuras ER**, Hondula DM, Brown-Saracino J. 2015. Heterogeneity in Individually Experienced Temperatures (IETs) within an urban neighborhood: Insights from a new approach to measuring heat exposure. *International Journal of Biometeorology* 59:1363-1372 doi: 10.1007/s00484-014-0946-x
- Vanos JK, Midel A, McKercher GR, **Kuras ER**, Ruddell BL. 2016. Hot playgrounds and children's health: A multiscale analysis of surface temperatures in Arizona, USA. *Landscape and Urban Planning* 146:29-42.
- Hondula DM, **Kuras ER**, Longo J, Johnston EW. 2016. Toward precision governance: Infusing data into public management of environmental hazards. *Public Management Review* doi: 10.1080/14719037.2017.1320043.
- Longo J, **Kuras ER**, Smith H, Hondula DM, Johnston EW. 2017. Technology Use, Exposure to Natural Hazards, and Being Digitally Invisible: Implications for Policy Analytics. *Policy & Internet* doi: 10.1002/poi3.144
- **Kuras ER**, Bernhard MC, Calkins MM, Ebi KL, Hess JJ, Kintziger KW, Jagger MA, Middel A, Scott AA, Spector JT, Uejio CK, Vanos JK, Zaitchik BF, Gohlke JM, Hondula DM. 2017. Opportunities and Challenges for Personal Heat Exposure Research. *Environmental Health Perspectives* doi: 10.1289/EHP556

### **Conferences (Oral Presentations)**

- International Network for Urban Biodiversity and Design Conference – Cape Town, South Africa (Sep 2018)
  - Kuras ER, Warren PS, Aronson M, Cilliers S, Goddard M, Nilon C, Winkler R, Zinda J. *Global Patterns of Urban Biodiversity and Socioeconomic Inequality*
- ECo Graduate Student Symposium – UMass Amherst, MA (Jan 2018)
  - Kuras ER. *Connecting to Nature in and out of School*
  - Winner of 1<sup>st</sup> Prize Award for a Traditional Talk
- Life Sciences Graduate Research Symposium – UMass Amherst, MA (Nov 2017)
  - Kuras ER. *Connecting to Nature in and out of School*
- American Public Health Association Annual Conference – Denver, CO (Nov 2016)
  - Invited Presentation: Kuras ER, Hondula DM, Brown-Saracino J. *Pairing social science methods with personal heat exposure assessment: A heat ethnography in the South End of Boston*
- Massachusetts Environmental Education Society Conference – Worcester, MA (Mar 2016 - 2018)
  - Organized Panel: *Highlights in EE Research and Evaluation* (2019)
  - Co-led with ECOS teachers: *Identifying Barriers, Imagining Solutions: Using research to improve urban EE* (2018)
  - Attendee (2016, 2017)
- Graduate Climate Conference – Woods Hole, MA (Nov 2015)
  - Kuras ER, Hondula DM, Ruddell B, Harlan SL. *Assessing Vulnerability to Extreme Heat through Individually Experienced Temperatures (IETs): New Insights from Phoenix, AZ*
- American Meteorological Society (AMS) Annual Meeting – Phoenix, AZ (Jan 2015)
  - Kuras ER, Hondula DM, Harlan SL, Ruddell BL, Brown-Saracino J. *Heterogeneity in Individually Experienced Temperatures (IETs): New insights into heat exposure from Boston and Phoenix*
- International Congress of Biometeorology (ICB) – Cleveland, OH (Sep 2014)
  - Kuras ER, Hondula DM, Brown-Saracino J. *Intra-Neighborhood Variation in Individually Experienced Temperatures (IETs): Insights from a New Approach to Measuring Heat Exposure*
- American Meteorological Society (AMS) Annual Meeting – Atlanta, GA (Feb 2014)
  - Kuras ER. *Challenging Urban Heat Island Paradigm: Integrating Idiosyncratic Movement into Neighborhood Scale Effects*
  - Winner of the 2014 AMS Best Student Presentation from the Fifth Conference on Environment and Health

- Ecological Society of America (ESA) Annual Conference – Minneapolis, MN (Aug 2013)
  - Kuras ER, Murphy SM, Lewis D, Wimp GM. *Salt marsh fertilization increases plant decomposition rate and the abundance of a detritivorous snail*
  - Winner of the 2013 ESA Student Section Best Undergraduate Oral Presentation Award

### Conferences (Poster Presentations or Participated as Attendee)

- Massachusetts Green Careers Conference – Westborough, MA (Oct 2017)
- North American Association for Environmental Education Annual Conference – Madison, WI (Oct 2016)
  - Winner of the William B. Stapp Student scholarship
- Northeast Natural History Conference – Springfield, MA (Apr 2016)
- CAP LTER 17<sup>th</sup> Annual All Scientists Meeting – Scottsdale, AZ (Jan 2015)
  - Kuras ER, Hondula DM, Betzel A, Dastan C, Eneboe J, Kaml M, Munoz M, Rohan-Kohl L, Sevig M, Singh M, Ruddell B, Harlan SL. *Measuring Individually Experienced Temperatures in Phoenix, AZ: A New Method for Research and Education in Urban Environmental Science*
- Boston University Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium – Boston, MA (Oct 2013)
  - Kuras ER. *Challenging Urban Heat Island Paradigm: Integrating Idiosyncratic Movement into Neighborhood Scale Effects*

### Reviewed Papers

- Urban Climate (May and Sep 2016); Urban Ecosystems (April 2018)

### Competitions

- Semi-Finalist in MIT Climate CoLab's contest, *Urban Heat Island Effect 2015*. "[Cool Cash Program – cooling Cambridge where and when it matters most.](#)" Pitch: incentivize efficient home cooling, generate community cooling opportunities, reduce waste heat additions to the urban heat island.
- UMass 3-Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition (2017, 2018)

### Published Data

- Kuras E, Munoz M, Betzel S, Dastan C, Eneboe J, Kaml M, Rohan-Kohl L, Sevig M, Singh M, Hondula D. 2017. *Individually experienced temperatures: a heat exposure study in five greater Phoenix, AZ area neighborhoods* (2014). Environmental Data Initiative. <http://dx.doi.org/10.6073/pasta/cba2173a40671a8a350c772f3da3214f>.

### Panels, Invited Talks, and Public Presentations

- North West University – Potchefstroom, South Africa: *Socioeconomic Inequality and Access to Nature: Global Patterns and Local Solutions* (Sep 2018)
- Friends of ECOS Quarterly Meeting – Springfield, MA: *Connecting to Nature In and Out of School* (May 2018)
- Four Rivers Charter Public School – Greenfield, MA: Conversations with two math class about becoming scientists and how we use math for our research (Mar 2018)
- Applewood Retirement Community Seminars– Amherst, MA: *Urban Ecology: Nature In and Of the City* (Oct 2016)
- Office of Professional Development NSF GRFP Mentor Program – Amherst, MA: *Cultivating Relationships with Faculty* (Oct 2016) and *Crafting the Personal Statement* (Oct 2017)
- UMass Graduate Orientation Panel – Amherst, MA: *Succeeding in Graduate School: Advice from Outstanding Students in the Sciences* (Sep 2016 and 2017)
- Maricopa County Department of Public Health – Phoenix, AZ: *How Hot Are We? An Examination of Individually Experienced Temperatures* (Nov 2014)
- Center for Policy Informatics (CPI) – Phoenix, AZ: *Individually Experienced Temperatures: A New Approach to Measuring Heat Exposure* (Nov 2014)
- South End Public Library – Boston, MA: *Feeling the Heat, or not: Individually Experienced Temperature within the South End* (Oct 2014)

### Public Presentations (<sup>1</sup> urban biodiversity; <sup>2</sup> heat exposure; <sup>3</sup> being a researcher)

- North West University, School of Biological Sciences<sup>1</sup> – Potchefstroom, South Africa (Sep 2018)
- Friends of ECOS Quarterly Meeting<sup>1</sup> – Springfield, MA (May 2018)
- Four Rivers Charter Public School<sup>3</sup> – Greenfield, MA (Mar 2018)
- Applewood Retirement Community Seminar Series<sup>1</sup> – Amherst, MA (Oct 2016)

- Office of Professional Development NSF GRFP Mentor Program<sup>3</sup> – Amherst, MA (Oct 2016 and 2017)
- UMass Graduate Orientation Panel<sup>3</sup> – Amherst, MA (Sep 2016 and 2017)
- Maricopa County Department of Public Health<sup>2</sup> – Phoenix, AZ (Nov 2014)
- Center for Policy Informatics (CPI)<sup>2</sup> – Phoenix, AZ (Nov 2014)
- South End Public Library<sup>2</sup> – Boston, MA *South End* (Oct 2014)

### Press

- Kuras E, Nock D, Amado A. 2017. Budget cuts threaten the community work of graduate students. *Boston Globe*. 31 May. <https://www.bostonglobe.com/opinion/2017/05/31/budget-cuts-threaten-community-work-graduate-students/AN0thJ3rixdnSjOW4zehPI/story.html>
- Seltentrich N. 2017. From Ambient to Personal Temperature: Capturing the Experience of Heat Exposure. *Environ Health Perspect*; DOI:10.1289/EHP2469. <https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/ehp2469/>
- Kuras ER. 2015. ASU researchers study heat in Power Ranch. *Power Ranch Living*. Jan/Feb, p. 9.
- Maniscalco MD. 2014. Walking in the rain; BU grad discusses weather's human effects on temperature tour. *South End News*. 6 Nov [http://www.mysouthend.com/news/news/168008/walking\\_in\\_the\\_rain](http://www.mysouthend.com/news/news/168008/walking_in_the_rain)
- Huffman Z. 2014. Temperatures Vary Across Neighborhood. *The Boston Courant*. 24 Oct, p. 7-8.
- Maniscalco MD. 2014. Hot or Not? BU grad returns to South End with results of weather study. *South End News*. 22 Oct [http://www.mysouthend.com/news////167495/hot\\_or\\_not?](http://www.mysouthend.com/news////167495/hot_or_not?)

## LEADERSHIP AND MENTORSHIP

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**That's Life [Science]**, UMass blog about the life sciences (Spring 2016 – Fall 2018)

### Outreach Committee Chair:

- Oversaw implementation of outreach and science communication events led by blog contributors
- Organized day-long Animal Habitats Badge event for 26 local girl scouts (Oct 2017)
- Created and implemented science communication workshops for the Biology Junior Fellows Program (Nov 2016) and a graduate-level Science Communication Course (Apr 2017)
- Managed guest post submission, editing, and publishing
- Facilitated bi-semester meetings with 10+ graduate students
- Developed committee structures, procedures, and roles to increase sustainable participation

**Outreach and Public Engagement Summit** (Fall 2017 – Spring 2018)

### Organizer

- Planned day-long summit for UMass graduate students to learn about outreach and public engagement as a professional pathway, connect students with opportunities to engage in outreach, and strengthen collaboration and capacity among UMass outreach organizations
- Solicited input two focus groups to understand what graduate students wanted to gain from the summit and conducted an online survey afterwards to solicit feedback and provide recommendations
- Mobilized funds from departments and agencies across campus to bring in speakers and provide light refreshments
- Organized panel of 5 professionals from across the US and an “Ideas and Information Exhibition” for 30+ graduate students and organizations to share best practices

**ECo (Environmental Conservation) Grad Council**, (Spring 2017 – Spring 2018)

### Secretary

- Facilitated communication between ECo Grad Council committees, provides organizational support, took minutes

### Departmental Seminar Committee Member

- Curated bi-weekly seminar speakers from across the US to present their current work to students and faculty

### Graduate Program Meeting Committee Member

- Organized monthly meetings for graduate students in the department
- Led discussion-based workshop to address communications needs among students (Feb 2017)
- Curated a panel discussion with invited speakers: *Making it Political: Using Scientific Knowledge for Environmental Activism and Engagement* (Apr 2017), and *Civics 501*, with special guests from Congressman McGovern’s office and representatives from federal agencies (Nov 2017)
- Moderated a panel of invited speakers about writing productivity and challenges: *Writing Tips for Success* (Oct 2017)

**UMass Graduate Student Senate** – UMass, MA (Fall 2016 – Spring 2018)

Senator

- Represented the interests of students in my department at monthly meetings; served as liaison between the senate, university resources and events, and students in my department
- Served on the Writing Support Working Group: Conducted survey to assess student needs and co-wrote report advocating for Graduate Assistantship positions focused on writing support

**Council on Public Engagement and Outreach** - UMass, MA (Fall 2017 – Spring 2018)

Graduate Student Representative

- Provided unique graduate student perspective on how UMass could better support public engagement and outreach efforts through its 2018-2023 Strategic Plan
- Created solutions with diverse stakeholders and representatives from units across campus
- Successfully advocated for council membership to include more faculty and staff that work directly with graduate students in the realm of public engagement and outreach

**Mentoring Workshop** – UMass, MA (Summer 2018)

- Participated in three-day workshop about maximizing effectiveness of mentoring relationships, facilitated by the National Research Mentoring Network

**Office of Professional Development NSF GRFP Mentor Program** – UMass, MA (Fall 2016 and 2017)

- Supported four first-year graduate students in their applications for the NSF GRFP
- Helped applicants articulate and translate their strengths into their personal and research statements
- Participated in trainings to be effective mentors regarding grant-writing in general and the GRFP specifically
- Led two brown-bag information sessions about the GRFP
  - Cultivating Relationships with Faculty
  - Crafting the Personal Statement

**Junior Year Writing** – College of Natural Sciences, UMass, MA (Fall 2015 – Spring 2016)

Teaching Assistant

- Motivated and mentored students to express ideas concisely, precisely, clearly, and powerfully
- Provided constructive feedback on and graded student professional and scientific writing
- Consulted with students 1-on-1 and in small groups to improve writing strategies

**Tropical Ecology Program** – Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador (Spring 2015)

Teaching Assistant

- Mentored 20+ undergraduate students in field ecology research methods, analysis, and scientific writing
- Designed and delivered classes and field experiences on the topics of animal biology, natural resource management, tropical urban ecology, and science history

**Urban Ecology Center at Washington Park** – Milwaukee, WI (Summer 2014)

Education Intern

- Led weeklong summer camps for children and teens to explore and learn about nature in their city
- Managed the Free Lunch Program and Young Scientists Club, an afternoon educational and recreational program for urban youths focused on interacting with nature
- Improved capacity to work with and foster community among a diverse group of youths spanning a range of socioeconomic and racial backgrounds

**Boston University Community Service Center** – Boston, MA (2010 – 2014)

Coordinator (Fall 2013 – Spring 2014) and Volunteer for Alternate Spring Break program

- Planned and organized an environmental service trip to Big Cypress National Preserve, FL for 16 volunteers
- Advanced conservation and restoration projects at the Grand Canyon, AZ (2012) and in Horse Caves, KY (2011)

Co-Founder and Committee Chair for Branch Out Program (Spring 2012 – Spring 2013)

- Co-pioneered program connecting students with educational and stewardship opportunities in the urban ecosystem
- Contacted environmental organizations in Greater Boston, planned service and education events, led group meetings, and completed administrative tasks

Staff Leader for First-Year Student Outreach Project (Aug 2011 – 2013)

- Guided incoming students in an education and community service program prior to matriculation related to hunger and food justice (2013), urban issues (2012) and the environment (2011)

Peer Leader for Wizards Program (Fall 2011)

- Engaged students in urban ecological science activities at weekly afterschool program

**Massachusetts Institute of Technology Educational Studies Program** – Cambridge, MA (2010 – 2015)

Mentor for Junction (Summer 2015)

- Advised and mentored seven high school students in the implementation of independent study projects ranging in topic from suicide pacts to bobcat conservation to global infectious disease
- Provided guidance on communicating original ideas effectively through writing and oral presentations
- Taught seminar classes in urban ecology and sociology, environmental justice, biometeorology, natural resource management, and scientific inquiry

Teacher for Splash (Fall 2010 – 2013)

- Taught classes to middle and high school students during a weekend education program  
Class topics: Bird Calls, Dynamics of Detritus, Urban Ecology 101, The Urban Heat Island

**Ward Pound Ridge Reservation Trailside Nature Museum** – Pound Ridge, NY (2008 – 2011)

Intern, Teacher at Summer Ecology Camp

- Assisted curator with public programs (such as bird watching and maple sugaring)
- Educated elementary, and middle school youth in ecology, natural history, plant and animal identification, awareness and conservation

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## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

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**That's Life [Science]**, UMass blog about the life sciences (Spring 2016 – Fall 2018)

Contributor: <http://thatlifesci.com/authors/ekuras/>

- Wrote blog posts about science communication, biodiversity, Pokémon Go, and other topics

**Sustainable Springfield, Urban Refuge Partnership** - Springfield, MA (Spring 2016 - 2018)

Volunteer

- Designed and led environmental education stations for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students at the Renaissance School. Students were engaged in a semester-long project about active wetland restoration
- Stations utilized aquatic macroinvertebrate sampling to learn about water quality testing and invasive plant (garlic mustard) removal to learn about applied habitat management

**Catalyzing Advocacy in Science and Engineering Workshop** – Washington, DC (March 2018)

- Awarded funding to attending four-day workshop hosted by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) about the structure and organization of Congress, the federal budget and appropriations processes, the role of science in policy-making, and how to be a more effective science communicator and advocate.

**Science and Policy Workshop Series** – UMass, MA (Spring 2017)

- Participated in five workshops about budget appropriations, the rule-making process, science communication, and our role as researchers and advocates.
- Published an op-ed in the Boston Globe about science funding and communities benefit from “Broader Impacts”

**Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science Workshop** – UMass, MA (Jan 2017)

- Participated in a day-long NSF funded workshop on communicating science to the public. Facilitated by the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science, Stony Brook University.

**Boston University Board of Admissions** – Boston, MA (2012 – 2014)

Scarlet Speaker

- Led large-group information sessions for prospective students

**BU Culture Shock**, official blog of the Howard Thurman Center for Common Ground (2011 – 2014)

Staff Writer: <http://bucultureshock.com/author/erkuras/>

- Blogged about issues in ecology, philosophy, international development, and art

**Yspaniola Service-Learning Trip to the Dominican Republic** (Jan 2012)

English Tutor for young Haitian immigrants

- Trip focus – land use, racial tensions, education and community development

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## **FUN FACTS**

**Haley House** – Boston, MA (2013 – 2015)

Volunteer

- Soup Kitchen: Prepared and cooked nutritious meals for the homeless population of Boston
- Bakery Café: Washed dishes and helped with various tasks in the kitchen

**Boston University Pit Orchestras** – Boston, MA (2011 – 2013)

Clarinetist

- Sweeney Todd (Spring 2011), The Producers (Fall 2011), The Drowsy Chaperone (Fall 2013)