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|  | Rita **Steyn**

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| **Address**Tampa, FL, 33605**Phone**(813) 465-4933**E-mail**rita.adele.steyn@gmail.com | Twitter @ritasteynLinkedIn https://www.linkedin.com/in/ritasteyn/ |

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Diligent problem-solver with resourceful approach to challenges and organized style. Leverages biological science and research expertise to manage job functions. Excellent communicator with focus on results. Team player with administrative, planning, and project management skills. Detail oriented and passionate about conservation of natural resources. Effective at highlighting scientific information to various stakeholders through outreach and education. Diverse experience working in locations such as the Southeastern United States, the Caribbean, Indonesia, and Southern and East Africa.

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| **Education** |

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|  | Master of Science: Biological Sciences *Ohio University - Athens, OH* |

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|  | Bachelor of Science: Marine Biology *Ohio University - Athens, OH*Environmental Studies Certificate |

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|  | Bachelor of Arts: Psychology *Ohio University - Athens, OH*Chemistry minor |

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| **Work History** |

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| 2019-01 - Current | **Adjunct Faculty** *The University Of Tampa and Hillsborough Community College, Tampa, FL** Evaluate and select instructional materials and texts to prepare course materials and lessons for Biology, Zoology, Nutrition and Environmental Science.
* Develop professional relationships with students to better communicate and enhance instruction.
* Engage students with insightful and compelling classroom discussion of topics relevant to coursework to boost student learning and retention.
* Continually improve teaching skills and develop stronger connection with students.
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| 2018-10 - Current | **Editor** (remote)*The Marine Diaries, London, UK* * Determined readiness of written pieces, made changes and approved final versions for publication.
* Managed team of guest writers to deliver accurate and engaging content.
* Prepared, rewrote and edited pieces to improve readability and impact.
* Posted and promoted articles on social media platforms to engage target audience.
* Communicated directly with writers to collaboratively assess work and guide editorial improvements.
* Set layouts and selected photos for stories to boost readership.
* Devised attention-grabbing headlines and summaries to increase clicks and engagement.
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| 2015-09 - 2017-12 | **Social Media Officer** *The Western Indian Marine Science Association , Stone Town, Zanzibar* * Developed marketing content such as blogs, promotional materials and advertisements for social media.
* Analyzed and reported social media and online marketing campaign results.
* Managed distribution to generate original content and moderate online community members.
* Communicated with followers to promptly respond to queries and monitor reviews.
* Created actionable plans to grow and maintain followers through Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.
* Served as digital communications officer for biennial WIOMSA scientific symposium.
* Produced media and content for circulation.
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| 2014-07 - 2017-07 | **Research Fellow** *South African Environmental Observation Network, Port Elizabeth, South Africa* * Maintained high levels of confidentiality to protect data quality and project research.
* Collaborated with marine professionals to advance research and gain deeper understanding of topics.
* Worked to improve collective knowledge of marine protected areas in South Africa.
* Identified and catalogued benthic marine invertebrate communities in the Tsitsikamma National Park, South Africa.
* Operated imaging systems (BRUVs and drop cameras) deployed from small boats.
* Planned, coordinated and implemented fieldwork for project.
* Produced annual reports on research activities for funding bodies.
* Represented SAEON at local and international scientific conferences.
* Recorded data from research to allow for accurate analysis.
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| 2013-03 - 2013-10 | **Science Educator** *Living Through Learning, NGO, Cape Town, South Africa* * Maintained assignment grades and worked closely with students needing additional mentoring.
* Provided student academic support outside class time to improve learning and performance.
* Assessed submitted class assignments, determined grades and reviewed work with struggling students to boost success chance.
* Kept classroom environments consistent and focused on learning by establishing and enforcing clear objectives.
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| 2011-01 - 2013-03 | **Visiting Lecturer** *University Of Cincinnati, Blue Ash, Blue Ash, OH** Evaluated and revised lesson plans and course content to achieve student-centered learning.
* Used variety of learning modalities and support materials to facilitate learning process and accentuate presentations.
* Designed and distributed lecture handouts to round out material and increase student understanding.
* Participated and led committee meetings to remain aware of developments in subject.
* Utilized distance learning technology to instruct students remotely.
* Selected and designed lesson plans and curriculum to meet academic objectives.
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| 2006-06 - 2010-02 | **Store Manager** *Abercrombie & Fitch, Honolulu, HI** Coached sales associates in product specifications, sales incentives and selling techniques, significantly increasing customer satisfaction ratings.
* Reviewed and monitored scheduling, purchases and other expenses to maintain quarterly budget.
* Performed statistical analyses to gather data for operational and forecast team needs.
* Prepared annual budgets with controls to prevent overages.
* Promoted team collaboration, performance and efficiency by fostering healthy environments focused on mutual success.
* Managed store employees successfully in fast-paced environment through proactive communication and positive feedback.
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| 2006-01 - 2006-12 | **Adjunct Faculty** *University Of Hawaii, Kaneohe, HI** Evaluated and selected instructional materials and texts to prepare course materials and lesson plans.
* Developed and kindled professional relationships with students to better communicate and enhance instruction.
* Engaged students with insightful and compelling classroom discussion of topics relevant to coursework to boost student learning and retention.
* Designed and distributed feedback forms to continually improve teaching skills and develop stronger connection with students.
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| 2005-02 - 2006-01 | **Research Laboratory Technician** *The Smithsonian Institution, Kaneohe, HI** Set and oversaw quality assurance guidelines for laboratory work.
* Maintained coral population and fish breeding facilities.
* Collected ecological and life-history data and performed physiological experiments on species of free-living coral (Fungia scutaria).
* Histologically fixed coral larvae and performed immune-histochemistry and antibody tests.
* Conducted imaging work on confocal and fluorescent microscopes.
* Participated in fieldwork and collection as needed.
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| **Science Communication Training** |

**SciFund Challenge: Instagram for Science** **Class**

* Online class facilitated through faculty at the Louisiana State University (LSU) College of Science, USA.

**Ocean Science Communication Tools Workshop**

* The Ocean Teacher Global Academy (OTGA) of UNESCO/IOC IODE, held in Ostend, Belgium.

**Managing the Non-Academic Impact of Research**

* A multi-day workshop held in Mombasa, Kenya, and funded by WIOMSA. Facilitated by Dr Jesper Vasell of the Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden.

**Science Meets Journalism Workshop** (print and radio)

* Rhodes University Journalism Department, Grahamstown, South Africa. Facilitated by Steven Lang.

**Science Communication for Western Indian Ocean Marine Scientists**

* A multi-day workshop held in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania facilitated by WIOMSA and the Training Center in Communications (TCC) Africa.