

Vita

Aaron Elaine Blacka

Education

M. S., Hospitality and Tourism Management, December 2001.

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Thesis: Financing university conference centers: A multiple case study approach

B. S., Forestry and Wildlife Resources, May 1998.

Summa Cum Laude, in Honors

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Honors Thesis: Visitors' site, activity, and management preferences

Employment

Office Assistant, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia, August 2001-present

- prepared Advisory Board meeting minutes
- performed clerical duties
- assisted Department Head with project writing

Graduate Assistant, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia, August 1999-May 2001

- prepared conference planning meeting minutes
- co-authored two articles and one extension handbook
- wrote speech for President Steger to deliver at conference
- wrote two grant proposals

Campground Manager, Shenandoah Acres Resort, Stuarts Draft, Virginia, May 1998- September 2000. **Vice President**, March 2000-present

- supervised 8-10 campground employees
- currently serve as company Vice President
- planned children's activities
- performed clerical and front desk activities as well as custodial duties

Backcountry Intern, US Bureau of Land Management, Whitethorn, California, May-August 1997

- backpacked the Lost Coast Trail, educated visitors about Leave No Trace camping and fire safety
- performed light maintenance tasks
- produced orientation handbook for future interns

Employment (Continued)

Custodial Hostess, Walt Disney World Resort, Orlando, Florida, May-August 1996

- swept streets and cleaned restrooms at the Magic Kingdom theme park
- received “Ducktorate” degree from Disney University in the College Program’s Human Resources seminar

Campground Employee, Shenandoah Acres Resort, Stuarts Draft, Virginia, Summers 1989-1995

- performed clerical and front desk duties
- cleaned restrooms and performed light maintenance tasks

Publications

Blacka, A., Couture, P., Coale, C., Dooley, J., Hankins, A., Lastovica, A., Mihalik, B., Reed, C., and Uysal, M. (2001). Agri-Tourism (Publication number 310-003). Blacksburg, VA: Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech

Couture, P., Blacka, A., and Mihalik, B. J. (2001). Development of an agricultural-tourism marketing strategy: A case study of Virginia. Challenges and opportunities for international business in the shifting global economic environment: International Management Development Association Conference Proceedings. Fatemi, K. and Kaynak, E. (eds.). July 4-8, 2001, Zagreb, Croatia. p. 150-157.

Blacka, A., Mihalik, B. J., and Jewett, J. (2000). A preliminary content analysis of select newspaper coverage of the summer Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. Managing in a turbulent international business environment: International Management Development Association Conference Proceedings. McLean, G. N., Kaynak, E., and Aliaga, O. A. (eds.). December 14-17, 2000, San Jose, Costa Rica. p. 74-79.

Honors and Awards

Virginia Tech College of Forestry and Wildlife Resources Outstanding Senior, 1998
Xi Sigma Pi, Forestry Honor Society (inducted 1997)
Phi Sigma, Biological Sciences Honor Society (inducted 1995)
Golden Key Honor Society (inducted 1996)
National Honor Society (inducted 1993)
National Art Honor Society (inducted 1993)

Other Associations and Activities

Sigma Alpha, National Agriculture Sorority (1996-present; Chaplain 1997;
Alumni Advisor, Alumni Liaison, and Scholarship Committee, 2000)
Virginia Tech Intramural Softball (1996-present)
Virginia Tech Varsity Softball (1995-96)
Virginia Tech Club Softball (1994-95)