Sarah Dickson

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EDUCATION

August 2008 — June 2012	Leland & Gray Union High School, top 10% of my graduating class of 50 students, member of the National Honor Society
September 2012 — May 2016	B.A. in Geosciences, Smith College, 2016 Member of Sigma Xi chapter Major GPA: 3.58

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

August 2016 — Ongoing | Master's Thesis at California State University, Fullerton

July 2015 — May 2016 | Keck Geology Consortium North Slope Project

I completed an independent research project interpreting fine-scale sedimentary structures and quantifying bioturbation in samples from northern Alaska that were deposited during the Late Cretaceous. My findings were consistent with previous work in the North Slope, showing a prograding deltaic system. In contrast to other outcrops of the same formation, there was minimal biologic activity, which may suggest rapid currents or decreased oxygen levels at the time of deposition.

January 2015 — May 2015 | Tropical Biology with the Organization for Tropical Studies

Spring semester of my junior year was spent in a research-based biology program in Costa Rica. I completed two independent projects:

1. A study based in the Palo Verde National Park focused on the relationship between the pit-building behavior of antlion larvae and the grain size of their surrounding sediment, as an example of predator decisions for trap location. My research found that antlion larvae prefer fine grained sand regardless of their size, and that they will even seek out finer sand for pit-building.

2. Mate choice in female *Dendrobates pumilio,* specifically the morphotype that resides at the La Selva Biological Station. My study examined the physiological characteristics of males and quantified the hue of their red coloring to determine if their coloring is a signal for physical fitness. There was no correlation between physical fitness and red hue.

RESEARCH GOALS & INTERESTS

My primary research interests are focused in paleoecology, or more specifically, how organisms and their environment influence each other and the limits of those interactions (i.e., how much can an organism adapt to keep up with fluctuations in its environment, and if there is a limit, what is it?). I believe that a better understanding of the manner in which these ideas have both shaped the history of Earth and

continue to effect it is an essential tool for investigating the potential for life on other planets. Ultimately, I would like to research astrobiology and contribute to our knowledge of Earth's history and how it relates to the development of other Earth-like planets outside our solar system.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

August 2016 — Present | Teaching Assistant/Graduate Associate at California State University, Fullerton.

Summer 2016 | Lead Instructor at iD Tech Camps in Southborough, MA

As a lead instructor at iD Tech, I taught game design classes for kids ages 7-12. My other responsibilities included caring for overnight campers and making sure they all had a great camp experience.

August 2015 — May 2016 | Student Manager for ITS at Smith College

As a student manager, my responsibilities include managing and supporting student consultants, as well as the regular consultant tasks (described below).

August 2013 — August 2015 | Student Tech Consultant for ITS at Smith College

My responsibilities as a student consultant include assisting faculty and students with technology issues and providing tech support for campus events. Often these tasks require creative problem solving under pressure as well as flexibility.