

# Lara M. Browning

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## EDUCATION

University of Georgia, Master of Landscape Architecture, July 2010 Athens, GA  
California State Polytechnic University, June 2006 - June 2007 Pomona, CA  
Wellesley College, Bachelor of Arts, May 2004 Wellesley, MA  
James Cook University, Feb. - June 2003 Cairns, Australia  
Universidad de Córdoba, Sept. - Dec. 2002 Córdoba, Spain  
Marista Dom Silverio, July 1999 - Jan. 2000 Belo Horizonte, Brazil

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Illinois, Aug. 2015 - present Champaign-Urbana, IL  
*Lecturer.* Instruct in the Department of Recreation, Sport, and Tourism. Instructor of Record for RST 100: Society and Leisure and RST 110: Leisure Service Delivery. Landscape Architecture Specialist for the Office of Recreation and Park Resources. Serve on International Relations Committee.

Virginia Tech, June 2012 - Aug. 2015 Blacksburg, VA  
*Project Associate.* Managed the projects of Virginia Tech's College of Architecture and Urban Studies' outreach program, the Community Design Assistance Center. Oversaw student teams in research, community engagement, and interdisciplinary design that promotes healthy living in communities within Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina (ie. park and open space planning, greenways, trails, recreational areas, sports complexes, community branding, eco-tourism development, and interpretive signage). Investigated and selected projects, developed proposals and budgets, planned and conducted community workshops, reviewed student conceptual designs, assisted with final report preparation, developed partnerships, applied for grants, and created marketing materials. Conducted scenic river studies with the VA Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Children & Nature Network, Aug. - Dec. 2012 Blacksburg, VA  
*Senior Project Coordinator.* Developed Appalachian Trail Millennial Youth Led Expeditions (AT MYLE) initiative for the Natural Leaders Network. Organized a relay thru-hike for youth, families, and communities. Designed logo and marketing materials, created project budget, represented project at large events, developed partnerships, assisted with website development, and coordinated with governmental agencies, organizations, local communities and volunteer trail clubs.

Yale University, May - Nov. 2011 New Haven, CT  
*Urban Forester.* Led community groups in developing greenspaces on vacant lots and beautifying streetscapes through Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies' Urban Resources Initiative. Supervised teams of ex-offenders in street tree plantings as part of a re-entry program. Aided in design development, material acquisition, and project construction.

Site Systems, Inc., Oct. 2010 - May 2011 Trumbull, CT  
*Landscape Designer.* Provided design development, construction estimates and document production, permit acquisition, client budget and invoicing, graphic design, and marketing. Managed and implemented summer flower installations.

University of Georgia, Aug. 2009 - May 2010 Athens, GA  
*Garden Intern.* Maintained Founder's Memorial Garden and designed areas for renovation. Taught undergraduate horticulture students as part of the University's educational outreach.

**Equinox Environmental, June 2007 - July 2008**

Asheville, NC

*Landscape Designer.* Assisted with conceptual design development, construction document production, planting plans, construction oversight, and community outreach. Provided natural resource inventories and monitoring on conservation easements for land trusts in the Southern Appalachians. Designed marketing materials and assembled project bid proposals.

**Suzanne Arca Design, June 2005 - May 2006**

Albany, CA

*Field Assistant.* Performed site assessments for landscapes receiving recycled water from East Bay Municipal Utility District. Installed designs and maintained gardens. Directed the preparation and management of a UC Berkeley Extension plant identification class.

**Flowerland Nursery, July 2004 - Aug. 2005**

Albany, CA

*Manager.* Oversaw employees. Managed and ordered stock. Advised customers on plants and their care.

**Wellesley College Greenhouse, Sept. 2000 - May 2004**

Wellesley, MA

*Greenhouse Assistant.* Maintained arboretum and cared for plants. Researched and labeled unmarked specimens.

**TRAININGS****Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute, Sept. 2013 - June 2014**

Statewide, VA

*Beals Scholarship Recipient.* Participated in six three-day sessions focusing on conflict resolution and collaborative problem-solving skills related to key environmental issues in the state of Virginia.

**Strengthening Your Facilitation Skills, Feb. 2014**

Wytheville, VA

Participated in a five-lesson training series designed to teach citizens to effectively and efficiently lead community groups.

**ACADEMIC RESEARCH****University of Georgia, Jan. - May 2009**

*Design Thesis.* "Pregnancy and Place: Creating Therapeutic Gardens for Maternity Care Patients."

Committee: Sungkyung Lee, Marguerite Koepke, David Spooner, and Stephanie Burwell.

Published in the *Journal of Therapeutic Horticulture*, Vol. 21, No. 2, 2011.

**University of Georgia, May - Aug. 2008**

*Neel Reed Graduate Fellowship Recipient.* Analyzed the potential of creating a sustainable plant list for the State of Georgia. Determined a procedure & preliminary list that could be utilized by the nursery trade.

**HONORS, GRANTS & AWARDS**

Individual:

**Beals Scholarship**, George Beals Conservation Endowment Fund, Fall 2013

**Neel Reid Memorial Graduate Scholarship**, University of Georgia, Spring 2009

**CEDAA Graduate Fellowship**, University of Georgia, Fall 2008 (offered to 1 incoming MLA student)

**Sigma Lambda Alpha**, California State Polytechnic University, Spring 2007

**Chapman Forestry Foundation Scholarship**, California State Polytechnic University, Spring 2007

**Marjory Stoneman Douglas Prize for Environmental Activism**, Wellesley College, Spring 2004

**Lumpkin Family Internship for the Environment**, Wellesley College, Spring 2002

**Service Opportunity Stipend**, Wellesley College, Spring 2001

**First Year Academic Distinction**, Wellesley College, Spring 2000

Team:

**Alumni Award for Outreach Excellence**, Virginia Tech, Fall 2015

**Brownsfields Grant**, Environmental Protection Agency, \$400,000, Spring 2015

**Gold Leaf Award**, International Society of Arboriculture, Fall 2014

**Forest Competitive Grant**, USDA Forest Service, \$89,500, Summer 2014

**Urban and Community Forestry Grant**, VA Dept. of Forestry, \$26,000, Summer 2014

**Urban and Community Forestry Grant**, VA Dept. of Forestry, \$27,466, Summer 2013

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**Yale Sustainable Food Project Seed to Salad Program, March - May 2012** **New Haven, CT**  
Taught second graders about food production at Yale University's Farm through hands-on experiential learning.

**Sierra Club's Inner City Outings Program, Sept. 2010 - May 2012** **New Haven, CT**  
Led monthly trips for inner-city youth, aged 6-16, to experience the outdoors.

**Finca la Bella, July 2009** **Monte Verde, Costa Rica**  
Worked with organic farmers to increase eco-tourism on their lands. Created new resources such as pamphlets, maps, and landscape designs to increase tourism through improved way-finding, inexpensive publicity, and cost-effective site improvements.

**Trail of Tears, May 2009** **Cherokee, NC to Tahlequah, OK**  
Studied the Cherokee people's contemporary and historic uses of native plants along the Trail. Redesigned the historical interpretive village for the Cherokee Heritage Center, Tahlequah, OK.

**Town of Wellesley, MA, Sept. 2003 - May 2004** **Wellesley, MA**  
Initiated and developed a composting program for the Town of Wellesley.

**The Organization for Tropical Studies, June - Aug. 2002** **Palo Verde, Costa Rica**  
*Lumpkin Family Internship for the Environment Recipient.* Worked with professor Claudia Charpentier at Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica to develop environmental education programming targeted at local farming communities. Conducted research on farming practices and resulting consequences on community health and agriculture.

**Bays Mountain State Park, Aug. 2001** **Kingsport, TN**  
Performed reptile presentations for visitors and school groups. Wrote environmental education curricula and a Volunteer Information Guide providing background information on reptiles and amphibians.

**Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, May - July 2001** **Edinburgh, Scotland**  
*Service Opportunity Stipend Recipient.* Assisted in wildlife rehabilitation and performed animal releases.

## SKILLS

Charrette Facilitation • Adobe Creative Suite • ArcGIS • AutoCAD • Google Sketchup  
MS Office Certified • Proficient in Written and Spoken Spanish • Graphic Design