

Taylor Lynch

– 2024 | Biology, German Studies & Art History –
Museum & Archival Studies

Why I Joined the Pathway

I chose to pursue the Museum and Archival Studies Pathway due to my strong interest in conservation, both from a biological and historical perspective. This Pathway provided me with a unique opportunity to learn about preservation techniques, understand the importance of archives in the modern world, and apply my newly acquired skills to my professional career. The experience has proven to be invaluable in expanding my knowledge and enhancing my abilities in this field.



My Pathway Courses

ARTH-20800: Italian Renaissance Art

As the first art history course I ever took, it helped me realize my interest in art, history, and how the past can be contextualized by remains of expression.

BIOL-31100: Natural History of Vertebrates

This course frequently utilized taxidermied and preserved specimens; it expanded my knowledge of archives in education.

GRMN-22802: German Film & Society

This course provided an opportunity to explore film as a form of historical record. Through analyzing original films, I gained insight into the conservation processes of these important sources.



My Experiential Learning Opportunity

Sophomore Research Assistant

COW Biology Department - Spring 2022

- Work
 - Developed a new master catalog for vertebrate specimen collection, which would be accessible to researchers across the country
 - Learned preservation techniques with alcohol and formalin preserving solutions
- Personal Growth
 - Improved organizational skills
 - Enhanced attention to detail from meticulous record-keeping
 - Learned to identify degradation and damage
 - Refined species identification abilities
- Career Goals
 - Work with specimen collections for conservation or research projects
 - Use as a tool for ecological education



How My Pathway Has Shaped My Career Path

After graduation, I will attend graduate school to pursue a master's degree in marine science. It's important to me that I utilize the skills I've acquired from the Museum and Archival Studies Pathway in my future career in marine conservation. I strongly believe that education is essential for successful conservation. For instance, educating local communities about the effects of harmful pollutants on various species or how to identify invasive species through the use of specimens could have a significant, positive impact on our global ecosystem.

Throughout my Pathway courses, I have learned that there are several ways to engage viewers, such as through art, hands-on activities, film, and many more. Additionally, I will make it a priority to learn about the local history of the area because effective conservation efforts rely on the support of the community. Understanding the community's economic, social, and religious values through museums and archives could benefit both the stakeholders and the environment.



THANK YOU

Dr. Rick Lehtinen -
EL Advisor

Dr. Kara Morrow -
Course Advisor

