FACULTY PROFILE

Department

CSU College: Arts and Sciences
CSU Discipline: Earth Science

Basic Info

Name: Rachel Jolley
Title: Part-Time Faculty
Email: rachel.jolley@columbiasouthern.edu
Personal Preferred Availability: Evenings

Education

PhD in Forestry
Auburn University

Master of Science in Botany and Range Science
Brigham Young University

Bachelor of Science in Zoology and Conservative Biology
Brigham Young University

Biography

Background

I am originally from Southwestern Virginia (where Virginia Tech is located). This is a beautiful region of what is known as the Blue Ridge Mountains, along the Appalachian chain. I attended college at Brigham Young University, in Provo, Utah, where I received a bachelor’s degree in zoology and a master’s degree in botany and range science. During this time, I spent my summers working for the Forest Service and various state wildlife agencies. I also spent 18 months doing volunteer work in northern Argentina.

After graduating, I taught biology and botany courses at Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah, for about four years. I then worked on my doctoral studies at Auburn University (Auburn, AL) in forest ecology, while my husband also worked on a graduate degree in wildlife ecology. After receiving my PhD, I spent two years at Mississippi State University doing post-doctoral research (restoration ecology). The past several years, I have taught for several online universities, which has allowed me to stay home with my young children. My husband and I currently live in Logan, UT. We have 4 boys under the age of 6.

CSU Story

I have taught earth science at Columbia Southern University since 2010. I enjoy helping students learn more about the world around them and reach their educational goals.

Hobbies/Interests

I enjoy running, hiking, and quilting.

Additional Information

Teaching Philosophy

My teaching philosophy centers on encouraging students to seek for knowledge. I want students to find a passion for learning; to explore the world around them and feed their curiosity and thirst for knowledge. We live in a world where we are surrounded by limitless information, yet so many choose to remain ignorant. I hope to awaken students to the excitement of learning.

Advice for Current Students

My advice is to read the unit lectures at the beginning of each unit. This will give them a very general understanding of what the chapters will cover and will help as they read the textbook to see the big picture. I suggest reading the chapters in their entirety prior to trying to complete the unit assessments.