

2020 Horns Point Rd.  
Cambridge, MD 21613

November, 2008

To Whom it May Concern,

God doesn't fit in a box. I tried very hard for quite a few years to keep Him there, but it didn't work very well. Even the strongest duct tape won't hold together the cardboard flaps that make up the top of the box. People think they can just bring Him with them to church on Sunday, open up, and then leave the whole thing behind for the remaining 6 days. He's been knocking on my door for a while, waiting for me to take a leap of faith. In a real Christian life, you need to let Him out. He's bigger than that, and He wants you, all of you.

I know that I don't fit into the "typical" ministry category. I am finishing my master's in environmental science through the University of Maryland and grew up the daughter of a teacher and a mechanic. As you will see from my resume, I thought I was supposed to chase after my brother to medical school until I found out the truth, I have worked at Nature Centers and conducting fishing and boating programs in PA, and even dressed up as a Native American re-enactor. I know I am expected to pursue a cookie-cutter job in some government agency or in research, but over the last two years, I've learned that there is more. He is calling me to be a part of something bigger- but God ensures nothing I have been through will be put to waste...

My faith is what drives me through every day, what motivates my every action and interaction with others. My faith has been threatened by co-workers, students, and scientists who live their lives never professing to this wondrous God we can call our own, but yet it remains strong. I live my life for Jesus, and He lives in me. I am called to love others, and through my Christian life, they may witness what makes me different, what makes me seem like I have something that they lack- and make them want it, all of it.

I am a person who can't be contained in one box, either, and the job description of being involved with a camp/retreat center is something that sparks my interest. I can do many things at once- and do them well, and I love to look for new opportunities of development and outreach that could be applied to each program. I can reach people that few others are able to reach, and I use my communication skills to connect with all ages groups, especially the young adults for which I have a passion. I am the "dorm mom" at the campus where I am right now, and we have numerous people come through and stay there for different periods of time. Some visitors are professors, some students, some scholars, and some people who just need a temporary place to stay. I have learned a lot from my new Chinese, Japanese, French, Arizonian, Floridian, and New Yorker friends, as well as their beliefs. I try to make them as comfortable as I can. I work to serve others in whatever I do.

From my high school days of working at a summer camp, assisting with the archery program and ropes course, to my work with the PA Fish and Boat Commission conducting 4-hour Family Fishing programs, boating safety programs, and the Delaware River Sojourn, a 7-day kayak trip from the source to the mouth of the Delaware River, I

have developed a love for both people and this great adventure of the outdoors. I had the chance to develop and Orienteering program at the Churchville Nature Center, where I worked in 2005, which was part of a team-building operative. In addition, these past jobs have given me skills to work with and recruit volunteers and other staff members. I believe that this group of workers is especially important because they do not receive any physical compensation for their hard work and time. Getting to know them and their strengths and then allocating them where those strengths are is the key to their fulfillment and retention.

Back to my theme of boxes here (hopefully you haven't had enough!) I've learned that working with other people (especially through my experience as a part of the Launch team of a church plant) is like stacking individual boxes on top of one another to build a pyramid. If you crush one, fold one the wrong way, or move it slightly out of place, the whole structure tumbles. In the same way, people need to be regarded not as mere bodies but as souls, who are also God's property. If we work together, nobody is insignificant—everyone is part of the same formation, and the results are awesome. In addition, a firm foundation is what will stabilize the structure. I look forward to maintaining a strong relationship with leaders and laity, especially those who master areas of expertise other than mine, from whom I can learn so much.

My history and skills fit into many different areas, many different boxes of life. I graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with Highest Honors and am a member of Phi Beta Kappa. I am working at the Horn Point Environmental Laboratory on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, while finishing this degree that brought me a new life in Christ, where I have a 4.0 GPA and have received a fellowship, teaching assistantships, and travel awards. I am skilled at many computer programs including the whole MS Office Suite and Adobe programs, and I have used them to create publications and newsletters for a variety of audiences. My work experiences as a teaching assistant for a course called “Land Margins Interactions” has allowed me to plan and implement outdoor field trips for students, including camping. I am also actively involved with outreach, conducting tours, speaking, working with High School students in the Canon Envirothon, teaching workshops, and taking a “Touch Tank” of fish to schools. In my church, I have planned and led ministry operations, including Kids' Club, a monthly hour of outreach to minority kids in the community. My work in environmental education has allowed me to take kids and adults into the outdoors, sometimes for the first time in their lives, and I am honored to expose them to the natural world and God's Creation. These experiences have developed skills within me that have helped me to be a planner, scheduler, coordinator, communicator, and developer.

Because I “think outside the box” (literally) I am not a person who is in need of direct supervision. In fact, I thrive under conditions where I am allowed to “run with” a job or project. In any of my previous experiences, and even while attaining my master's degree, I have had little supervision (my boss was located 3 hours away in PA) and I have gone beyond expectation for work. I would expect my Supervisor to be there for questions and concerns and also to initially guide my path as I began the job. I would expect to fall into place, working directly with co-workers. The main goal of the church should be bringing the people to God. We, as Christians, need to be distinct in our works with the world and community. Serving others is the key to hospitality, and this should be implemented at all costs. We need to make sure we balance our lives and our attitudes

towards others so we are striving for the same ideals. Christian education differs from the mainstream because it not only reveals Truth, but implements it in life. Christians need to give their hearts to whatever they do, as they are really doing it for someone else other than a boss or themselves.

My references (on resume) include Pastor Frank Short, with whom I have worked for the past two years at Bay Country Church and at Real Life Chapel. Pastor Frank has been my mentor and spiritual director as well.

My skills in communication, my experience as a young adult, college student, and scientist, and my creativity can be a unique formulation as I continue to grow in Christ. I am look forward to finding unique solutions to problems and encountering tasks that seem insurmountable. I sincerely hope you will consider me for a position. You surely will not be disappointed.

Sincerely,

Kris Beckert

Kristen A. Beckert  
2020 Horns Point Road, Cambridge, MD 21613  
410-221-8352 (w)  
215-237-4959 (h)  
[kbeckert@hpl.umces.edu](mailto:kbeckert@hpl.umces.edu)

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## EDUCATION

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*University of Maryland, Ecology M.S. Candidate: Marine, Estuarine, Environmental Science Program- 2008*

*University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill, B.S. Biology 2004; Chemistry minor*

*Senior Honors Thesis: "The Effects of Seasonal Change and Urbanization on Macroinvertebrate Communities in Streams"- received Highest Honors*

*Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine, First-year of Podiatry School- GPA 3.8, changed pursuit of advanced degree*

## AWARDS

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*Horn Point Teaching Assistant, Land Margins Interactions course- fall 2007-2008*

*Horn Point Point Laboratory, Graduate Student Fellowship- 2006/2007*

*Research and travel awards- 2008*

*Phi Beta Kappa- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill- 2003-present*

*Golden Key National Honor Society- 2001-present*

*National Merit Finalist Scholarship- 2000*

## EXPERIENCE

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### **Church Involvement**

**07-08**

- Member of Bay Country Bible Church in Cambridge Maryland
- Launch Team of "Real Life Chapel," planting new contemporary church in Easton, MD
- "Real Women" group organizer
- Kids' Club youth worker- monthly outreach to minority community kids
- Published articles and editorials in newspaper
- Coordination of communion service, skits, and Vacation Bible School

### **Graduate Research Assistant**

**06- 08**

*UMCES Horn Point Environmental Laboratory, Cambridge, MD*

- Organized and participated in fieldwork in MD Coastal Bays, laboratory and watershed analyses
- Land use assessment of Maryland Coastal Bays watershed
- Involvement in the culturing of *Lyngbya* harmful algae in the laboratory, nitrogen uptake kinetics, denitrification, growth measurements, and processing
- Statistical analysis of data
- Artist for Integration and Application Network (IAN) and design of graphics

### **Graduate Teaching Assistant**

**07- 08**

- Land Margins Interactions course (MEES610) for 15 graduate students
- Planning and organization of field trips to the mountains, Patuxent River, and Blackwater Wildlife Refuge, and Final Symposium

- Weekly trivia challenge for students, pertaining to lecture topic
- Horn Point Outreach** **06-08**
- Outdoor education facilitator
  - Design and publication of materials for Science Communication
  - Public and group tours during the week and on Saturdays, taking the touch tank trailer to schools and local functions
  - Eastern Shore Envirothon coordinator: conduct workshop on Aquatics for high school students and examination
  - Teacher for 7<sup>th</sup> grade photosynthesis/submerged aquatic vegetation experiments and field trips
  - Graduate liason for REU summer students: oversaw, organized, and assisted undergraduate students as part of a Sea Grant summer research experience
  - Created and organized fundraising events for graduate students and Humane Society charity event
- Environmental Education Specialist of Southeastern PA** **1/06-8/06**  
*Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Harrisburg, PA*
- creation, implementation, and teaching of environmental science programs for children, the public, and civic groups
  - coordinated Enviro-thon Teacher workshop, Project Wild-Aquatic, Temple University Earth Day, and the Eco-Leadership Summit held May 2006
  - Watershed documentation and outreach programs
  - participated and research for the Schuylkill Watershed Congress March 2006; PA Environmental Education Conference in Erie, PA May 2006; Delaware River Sojourn in coordination with DRBC June 2006; Safe Boating Day May 2006; Family Fishing Ecological Programming June-August 2006
  - writing of webpage regional reports, advertising, administrative duties, supervising volunteers and employees
  - boat safety instruction
- Nature Center Naturalist/ Educator** **8/05 – 12/05**  
*Churchville Nature Center, Churchville, PA*
- Conducted public programs on watershed analysis, stream studies, water quality issues
  - Weekly presentations on Native American heritage
  - Advertisement and creative announcements for events and fundraising
  - Assisted with land management and volunteer coordination
- US Geological Survey** **5/03 – 6/04**  
*North Carolina Water Science Center, Raleigh, NC*
- Intensive stream sampling of macroinvertebrates, water quality, fish, algae, *E. coli* for 30 streams in Albemarle Basin- part of national water quality assessment (NAWQA) program
  - Profiled and mapped results of analysis on database
  - Used and instructed others with IDAS software for data analysis of samples
  - Processed lab samples, identification of macroinvertebrates
  - Conducted Senior Honors thesis in conjunction with USGS, using the Urban Land Use Gradient (ULUG) created by Dr. Thomas Cuffney
- Naturalist Intern** **6/02 – 8/02**

*Peace Valley Nature Center, Chalfont, PA*

- Identified marine mammals and bird species seen along hikes
- conducted summer outreach programs on watersheds, conservation, and ecology
- wrote and illustrated a guidebook for the Nature Center
- assisted in invasive plant control and mapping of new trails

**Camp Counselor/newspaper editor**

summer 1994-2000

*Breezy Point Day Camp, Langhorne, PA*

- wrote and published weekly camp newsletter, ~6-10 pages in length
- led groups of 10-15 children, ages 5-12
- high ropes course trained
- conducted daily “Newspaper Club” and “Archery Club”

## SPECIAL SKILLS

**Computer Applications:** Adobe Illustrator, MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, Outlook; Adobe Photoshop Elements, SAS Statistical Analysis Package, ArcMap GIS and Arc Catalog

**Foreign Languages:** Proficient in German

**Communication:** Experience writing essays and articles for newspapers/magazines; established illustrator/cartoonist/designer for IAN group at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science; has designed T-shirts and logos for companies and organizations, drawn college newspaper political cartoons, illustrated ads and articles

## REFERENCES

**Pastor Frank Short**, Real Life Chapel, Easton, MD, [fshort@comcast.net](mailto:fshort@comcast.net)  
410-221-8568

**Donna Stotts**, Environmental Education Director, Horn Point Laboratory,  
[dstotts@hpl.umces.edu](mailto:dstotts@hpl.umces.edu)

**Dr. Judith O’Neil**, Horn Point Laboratory, research professor [joneil@hpl.umces.edu](mailto:joneil@hpl.umces.edu)  
410-221-8411

**Dr. Thomas Fisher**, Horn Point Laboratory, watershed research [fisher@hpl.umces.edu](mailto:fisher@hpl.umces.edu)  
410-221-8432

**Bonnie Tobin**, Delaware Canal State Park, worked on several projects  
[btobin@state.pa.us](mailto:btobin@state.pa.us) 610-982-0161

**Carl Haensel**, PA Fish and Boat Commission ARPS [carlhaensel@hotmail.com](mailto:carlhaensel@hotmail.com)