

## **Guide to Writing Your Bio for the GES Symposium**

Your Symposium bio is a short story of your time as an undergraduate student in GES and UH Mānoa. It is brief but packed with details and should give readers a clear view of how you came to be who you are. This is the time to toot your own horn in a tactful and professional way, and in your own voice!

For those of you who plan to further your education and/or pursue a career in research or academia, which could involve regular conference presentations, you should learn how to write a compelling bio so that conference attendees will choose your talk over others. Bios are also handy for your website if you plan to create one as a portfolio of all the work you have done, especially if you are actively seeking funding!

### **Guidelines:**

- Between 150 and 200 words
- Include Hawaiian diacritical marks where necessary
- Invite someone to proofread it spelling and grammar (including making sure your message is clear) before submitting.

### **Elements to include:**

- Why did you choose GES?
- Did you apply to GES directly from high school?
  - If not, where did you transfer from? Were you a Ka'ie'ie program student?
  - Which year and semester did you join GES?
- What drove you to work on your research project?
- Accomplishments you're most proud of (pick any or all)
  - Highlight(s) of GES experience, may include research project
  - Scholarships, Dean's List, etc.
  - REUs, internships, cruises, etc.
  - Presented at conferences (name, location, year)
- How do you plan to use your GES degree?
- What are your immediate plans after graduation?
- Place you were born and raised, if different (city, state, **or** state, country)

### **Bio Example #1**

Noah knew he wanted a career in the natural sciences but could not decide right out of high school. He chose GES because of the broad range of topics students can pursue, which allowed him the freedom to explore careers in different fields while still graduating on time. Noah was already heading into Kāne'ōhe Bay every two weeks to maintain ocean acidification monitoring buoys, so he pursued a project that would complement his day job and not require independent field outings. Since entering UH Mānoa and the GES program in the fall of 2015, Noah has been a constant dean's lister and has received various scholarships and awards, including Hau'oli Mau Loa Graduate Fellowship and UH Mānoa Service Award. Further, Noah's thesis project was funded by UH Mānoa's Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP). He has presented research in several national and international conferences and recently submitted his third coauthored paper. Out of all his accomplishments, Noah is most proud of serving as a peer mentor to GES underclassmen. Upon graduation, Noah will be pursuing a Master of Science in Oceanography at UH Mānoa. He plans to contribute to oceanographic research in Hawai'i while simultaneously empowering local students through STEM outreach and education. Noah was born in Tacoma, WA, and raised in Lāhāina, HI.

## **Bio Example #2**

Diana knew she wanted to pursue a career in STEM, but was unsure of what options were available to her. Although college got off with a rocky start, switching majors from Biology to GES was one of the best decisions she made in her undergraduate career. The guidance and support she received from faculty and peers provided her various opportunities to delve into various STEM focuses, from studying tropical lizards in southern Costa Rica to reaching out to communities about King Tides in Hawai'i and Pacific Islands. Known as the "Queen of Internships" within the GES 'ohana, Diana has spent the past five summers immersed in national and international research internships across various STEM fields and has presented her work in conferences across the nation. Diana is a constant dean's lister and recipient of a multitude of scholarships and awards, such as the SOEST Undergraduate Award for Service and Leadership and the highly competitive NOAA Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship, which led to her GES project on looking into how restoration efforts affect water circulation in Loko i'a o He'eia, a Native Hawaiian Fishpond. Diana was born and raised on the island of Saipan and is the first in her family to receive a college degree.

## **Bio Example #3**

As a non-traditional student, Shaun struggled to stay motivated in his academics. During his time at Kapiolani Community College, he found himself lucky to be a part of a Summer Bridge program, which toured SOEST, showed him GES, and ultimately pushed him to continue in academia. Since then, Shaun has realized that one's time in school is only as valuable as the opportunities one takes. When a job was presented through his Maile Mentor, Gordon Walker, to work in the McManus Oceanography lab, he decided to apply. This opportunity has given him experience and opened many other doors. He has participated in multiple REU internship programs, presented at national and international conferences, completed his thesis project involving the PacIOOS Nearshore Sensors, and attained graduate positions. Most importantly, Shaun realized that it is possible to combine passion and work while making a positive impact. Shaun plans to continue working in the field of oceanography and hopes to incorporate his graduate studies in Urban and Regional Planning to integrate science and policy in Hawai'i. Shaun was born in Hilo, HI, and raised in Honolulu, HI.

## **Bio Example #4**

Growing up near the Puget Sound and along the coast of Southern California, Lauryn has always had a great appreciation for marine organisms and sustainability. It was in high school that she realized that she wanted to pursue environmental science in college and as a career. Passionate about her academics, she was enticed by the challenges and opportunities that GES had to offer and was set on finding a research project that focused on the environmental impact of everyday household products. After spending months searching for a project across various departments at the university, she was finally referred to do ecotoxicology work with corals under Dr. Robert Richmond at Kewalo Marine Laboratory. After one meeting she knew that it would be a perfect fit. Since committing to her research project, Lauryn has managed to balance a research internship with full time classes and a part-time job, all while beginning her Master's degree in Public Health. Lauryn hopes that her research can help bridge the gap between people's everyday activities, their impact on the environment, and ultimately their personal health. She hopes to expand her research in toxicology from corals to people for her Master's degree and continue this style of work after graduation to create a safer community.