



SEDLEY AND PEARL STANFORD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

ZACHARY VALOIS
BIOLOGY, SENIOR

A few things about me:

I am a 26 year old (non-traditional) student participating in the Utah State University Bachelors of Biology program. In my undergraduate studies, I'm focusing broadly on evolutionary biology. With nearly ten years of experience working with reptiles, amphibians, and arachnids, I am highly experienced as a naturalist in these particular groups. I have been employed as a collections assistant in an exotic snake breeding facility, operations manager in a tropical fish hatchery, tropical greenhouse manager, and work currently as lead herpetological zookeeper at the Logan Willow Park Zoo. I have assisted with information consultation, photography, venomous snake removal, employee training, public outreach, and wild animal field surveys and captive husbandry for numerous agencies such as the Utah Museum of Natural History, American Tarantula Society, West Texas A&M University, Utah Reptile Rescue, Willow Park Zoo, American Museum of Natural History, Living Planet Aquarium, and many others. I have demonstrated a strong proficiency for conducting work with wild animals covering numerous facets, in addition to providing the necessary interface for the zoological and scientific community with the public. I currently hold a position as Research Associate with the University of Utah Museum of Natural History where I assist in public outreach and collections management and development, with an emphasis on southwestern US arachnids. As a student of Utah State University, I am advancing my quantitative scientific techniques and knowledge on molecular evolution in North American scorpions. I hope to continue my work in molecular evolution and obtain a PhD, after which, I aim to obtain an academic research/teaching position or natural history collections management position.

