

Véronique C. LaCapra  
24 Butternut Circle  
Cotuit, MA 02635  
(202) 701-4265  
vlacapra@whoi.edu

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **Director of Special Projects, Advancement**

#### **Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, Mass. (2018-present)**

- Serve as senior advisor, force multiplier, and information proxy for WHOI Vice President Sam Harp
- Provide senior-level writing and editing for multi-million-dollar funding proposals to high-net-worth donors and government agencies
- Ghost-write op-eds and articles for senior leadership, up to and including the President and Director
- Provide senior-level writing, editing, quality control, and project management for Advancement, Communications, and Development initiatives, events, and content (print, web, social media, and multimedia)
- Write and edit articles for WHOI's flagship print publication, *Oceanus* magazine
- Host WHOI's popular "Ocean Encounters" virtual event series (audience 1,000+), and host and provide writing, editing, and speaker training for other events and engagement activities for a broad range of audiences, including high-net-worth donors and the WHOI Board and Corporation
- Produce an original, soon-to-be-launched podcast highlighting the work of WHOI scientists, engineers, and staff
- Promote diversity, equity, and inclusion at WHOI. I chaired the WHOI Women's Committee for two years (2018-2019), am an active member of Gays, Lesbians, and Others in Woods Hole (GLOW), and currently serve as a close advisor to the co-chair of WHOI's Committee for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (CDEI). I also co-chair the CDEI's messaging and implementation workgroup, acting as a liaison between the CDEI and Advancement, and helping to provide content oversight from a DEI perspective for Communications, Development, and WHOI leadership.

#### **Science writer & editor, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, Mass. (2016-2018)**

- Wrote articles and took photos for WHOI's marine science and technology magazine, *Oceanus*
- Wrote and produced content for WHOI's website, including articles, photos, audio, and video
- Edited the articles, press releases, and other writing of WHOI communications staff and scientists
- Accompanied WHOI scientists and engineers on ocean research cruises and other field work to conduct interviews, take photos, and write about their work
- Supported WHOI scientists in developing presentations, articles, and other projects

#### **Science, environment, and health reporter, St. Louis Public Radio, Saint Louis, Mo. (2010-2016)**

- Reported, wrote, voiced, and produced radio features and news reports about science, the environment, health, agriculture, technology, and other subjects, using Adobe Audition audio editing software
- Regularly reported for national public radio programs, most often through the NPR science desk
- Wrote and produced content for the station website, including articles, audio segments, and photos
- Edited the work of other reporters and interns
- Used social media (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn) to disseminate my work and find sources
- Participated as a co-host and panelist on St. Louis Public Radio's live call-in talk show
- Represented the station as a host, featured speaker, and panelist at live events

#### **Reporter, NPR science desk, Washington, D.C. (full-time temporary, 12/2012-1/2013)**

- Reported on science research, the environment, and health for a national radio and online audience, using MTE audio editing software

#### **Reporter, Voice of America, Washington, D.C. (part-time freelance, 2007-2009)**

- Reported on health, the environment, and other topics of interest to VOA's developing-country radio and online audience, using Dalet audio editing software

**Pesticide regulator (GS-13-5/14), U.S. EPA, Arlington, Va. (2000-2010)**

- Regulated pesticides in order to mitigate their risks to people, wildlife, and the environment
- Explained complex scientific and regulatory concepts to stakeholders and the general public
- Provided leadership to other staff by reviewing and editing their written work, leading teams and workgroups, and serving as a mentor to junior staff members
- Represented my office nationally and in developing countries, leading discussions, giving presentations, and developing written training materials on pesticide issues

**Volunteer project assistant, Anglican HIV&AIDS Office, Cape Town, South Africa (2005)**

- Conducted phone interviews in Portuguese with parish leaders in Angola about their HIV/AIDS-related projects, as part of a larger effort to collect and make available HIV/AIDS information from all the Anglican parishes in Southern Africa
- Worked with a native speaker of Portuguese to help translate an HIV/AIDS workshop facilitator's manual into Portuguese, in order to make the manual available to Portuguese-speaking dioceses in Angola and Mozambique

**Researcher, Environmental Defense Fund, Oakland, Calif., and Brazil (1998-2000)**

- Conducted over forty interviews in Portuguese with representatives of government agencies, research institutions, businesses, and non-governmental agencies involved in the regulation or operation of tourism in the Pantanal
- Produced the first comprehensive analysis of tourism as a component of sustainable development in the Pantanal, published as a report in English and Portuguese and distributed in the U.S. and Brazil: LaCapra, V.C., Moore, D., and Melack, J.M. 2000. *How Much is Too Much? An Analysis of Tourism as a Component of Sustainable Development in the Pantanal Wetland of Brazil.*

**Doctoral researcher, University of California, Santa Barbara, Calif., and Brazil (1994-2000)**

- Contributed data to the then-limited body of research on the aquatic biogeochemical effects of biomass burning in wetland ecosystems
- Carried out two years of field work in the Pantanal wetland of Brazil, analyzing the chemistry of floodplain waters in burned and unburned areas of lowland cattle ranches
- Collaborated with Brazilian researchers and staff at the Center for Agricultural Research in the Pantanal, a Brazilian federal agency
- Served as a research and teaching assistant at UCSB
- Dissertation (2000): *The Biogeochemistry of Floodplain Waters in Burned and Unburned Areas of the Pantanal Wetland of Brazil.*
- Additional publication: LaCapra, V.C., Melack, J.M., Gastil, M., and Valeriano, D. 1996. Remote Sensing of Foliar Chemistry of Inundated Rice with Imaging Spectrometry. *Remote Sensing of Environment.*

**EDUCATION**

PhD in biogeochemistry (wetland ecosystem ecology), University of California, Santa Barbara, Calif.

BA in biology, environmental policy. College Scholar. *Summa cum laude*, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. French civilization courses. Certificate, *mention bien*. The Sorbonne, Paris, France

Duke Center for Documentary Studies workshops in audio documentary production

Foreign languages: fluent in French, proficient in Portuguese, basic knowledge of Spanish