



ACE Advice



Practical Experience | Expert Insight

A Virtual Chat with Elliott Forsythe



MA Biological Anthropology



Southern Illinois
University Carbondale



Specialty/Research Focus:
Non-Human Primates

My master's degree research focused on the evolutionary biology and functional anatomy of Platyrrhine primates. Through my research, I had the opportunity to visit some of the most amazing research facilities in the world, and also work with some of the most talented biologists the world has ever seen. But more importantly, I learned skills that have served me well outside of academia. After graduating, my life took a different path, but I am grateful every day for the skills I learned and fostered in academia.

Currently, I am a human resources director for a global manufacturing company (Bridgestone). I have responsibility for the overall HR agenda for a multi-national client group, including things like compensation, organization design, teammate relations, organizational effectiveness, to name a few accountabilities. In my role, I work with people: people from different cultures, with different points of view, and different perspectives. And I also design, analyze, communicate, and drive change. The choices I make have impacts on thousands of people's lives, and the consequences of my choices have massive business impact.

My training in anthropology is indispensable to helping me be successful, and make the right decisions for my teammates and my company. My academic training taught me to diagnose systems (systems made up of people), define changes needed to improve efficiency, craft solutions that are aligned cross culturally, and execute on the changes through effective communication and very formal writing. While my career is non-academic, it is absolutely anthropological in the purest sense, and I would not be as successful as I am without my extensive training in the field.

Online
Office Hrs



See our list of
events to register
for Elliott's
upcoming office
hours.