

# Case Study: Delaware Valley University:

## Preparing students for the real world of zoological information management

**Who:** Delaware Valley University

**Where:** Doylestown, Pennsylvania, USA

**Case Study:** Teaching zoo science with LearnZIMS

### Summary:

Delaware Valley University offers one of the premier four-year zoo science programs in the United States, emphasizing learning through hands-on experience. Its Animal Biotechnology and Conservation Department offers courses that prepare students for careers in the zoo and aquarium industry. Coursework covers all aspects of zoo science and conservation, including husbandry, handling, care, nutrition, disease, behavior, training, and aquarium science.

Throughout its four-year program, Delaware Valley emphasizes real-world operational issues and questions facing zoos and aquariums around the world. The university offered its first ZIMS record-keeping class in fall 2014.

### How ZIMS has been integrated into the Delaware Valley curriculum:

Over the past four years, Delaware Valley students have developed and maintained a virtual zoo. Each year, students work with different animal populations and habitats. This year, students are creating and populating exhibits for nocturnal species. Thanks to LearnZIMS, the students can now not only design and populate their virtual exhibits,



*“Thanks to ZIMS, students can design and populate their virtual exhibits.”*

they can record complex data in ZIMS, maintaining Delaware Valley's hands-on, real-world focus.

Maggie Liguori, an instructor at Delaware Valley who developed and teaches the class, says "This class not only synthesizes the zoo science curriculum, but it also includes a job task. Their hands-on skill at entering data into ZIMS is really important for their resumes."

#### **What the students think:**

"Everyone was very excited about it," says Maggie. "Within a couple of weeks they'd torn through the syllabus."

#### **What employers think:**

Delaware Valley University interns and graduates have been placed at zoological institutions all over the United States. Maggie says, "We've already had positive feedback when students have interviewed for keeper positions. It shows how important it is that our students will become staff members who can use ZIMS and understand that it is now part of their daily work life."

#### **What the university thinks:**

"We're extremely grateful that ISIS has helped us become a ZIMS educator," says Reg Hoyt, Chairman of the Animal Biotechnology and Conservation Department. "It's a great addition to our curriculum."

For more information about LearnZIMS, contact [ISIS Training Manager Josh Courteau](#).

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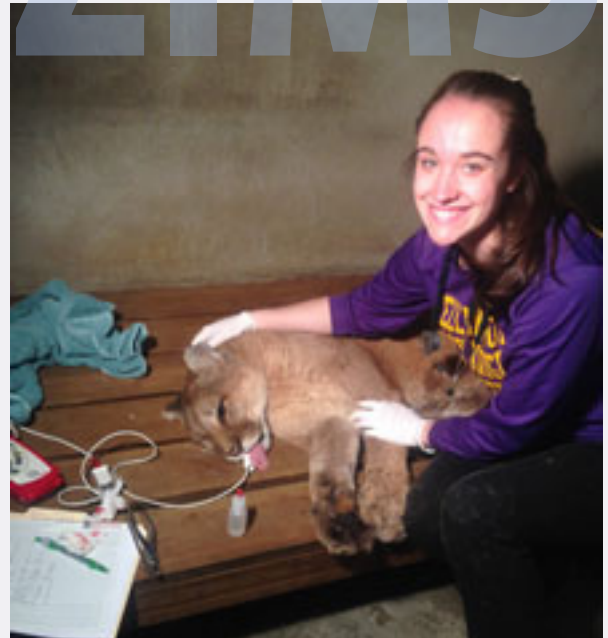
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