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On Capstones: Rachael Konke, MAPW Alumna

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Rachael Konke

My graduation year is: Spring 2017

My MAPW concentration and support area are: MAPW Applied Writing

My capstone project: Technical Manual- [Portosystemic Shunts in Cats: Management and Care](#)

My capstone committee is: Laura McGrath and Linda Neimann

On capstone planning: I completed my capstone in one semester, so I was constantly working on it this semester. I set aside 4-6 hours a day to work on my capstone. I was on a very strict schedule and I really had to work hard to make myself adhere to that schedule.

On capstone research: Because I was completing my capstone in one semester, my research process was a little different than other projects. I couldn't waste any time on unnecessary research. My topic was about veterinary animal care, so I went to Emory and UGA to research my topic because they offer veterinary programs. I've never gone to specific libraries before for specialized research, but it was very helpful. Emory and UGA had specialized resources that were unavailable at other typical libraries.

My favorite part of creating my capstone was: My favorite part was publishing it at the end. It is my first full book publication, and I could be more pleased or proud of how it turned out.

For those who are starting to think about capstone: I would tell them to start early. I was able to finish my capstone in one semester, but it was a lot of work and a lot of stress. It would have been much easier to do across two semesters. I would also suggest a lot of outlining and pre-planning. I don't usually spend a lot of time outlining, but I did with this project because it was so large. Outlining and pre-planning is absolutely necessary in a project of this size. Sticking to the schedule is equally as important. With extremely large projects it very important to stick to a schedule.