Michael Ballin

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Education

Colby College
Waterville, Maine
August 2017 - May 2021
Bachelor of Arts: Environmental Science, minor: Art

- Campus Jobs: Student Photographer - Communications Department, Assistant - Athletic Training Room
- Activities: Orientation trip leader, Colby Surf Club - President

Technical Skills

- Software: Rhino/Grasshopper, Fusion 360, Adobe Suite, Shape3Dx, Raspberry Pi, Squarespace, Wix, basic Python
- Manufacturing: Additive, Foam, Fiberglass/ Epoxy, Wood

Past Work Experience

St.Germain
Westbrook, Maine
Environmental Scientist | June 2021 - Nov 2022

- Conducted Phase I & II environmental site assessments, including groundwater and soil sampling
- Authored technical reports and regulatory submittals in compliance with Maine DEP and EPA standards
- Collaborated with project managers, clients, and subcontractors to ensure compliance and timely project delivery

Colby College Environmental Science Department
Waterville, Maine
Senior Capstone Research | Fall 2021

- Studied lobster shell disease in the Damariscotta River, comparing temperature and salinity measurements to affected crustaceans

Summary

Product designer, engineer, and entrepreneur specializing in sustainable innovation. Co-founded a startup converting recycled medical-waste plastic into high-performance composite products—developing 70+ designs that achieved 65% weight reduction while maintaining structural integrity. Bring expertise in advanced composites, parametric design (Rhino/Grasshopper), and end-to-end operations from supply chain management to cross-functional team leadership.

Work Experience

Blueprint Surf
Portland, Maine
Co-founder | Nov 2022 - Present
Part-time May 2021 - Oct 2022
Sustainable surfboard startup creating custom boards using 3D-printed cores made from recycled plastic, offering an eco-friendly alternative to traditional foam surfboards

- Product Design & Development
  - Developed a parametric script (using Rhino/ Grasshopper) to create light weight high strength internal lattice structures
  - Led rapid prototyping and iteration cycles to develop multiple product lines producing over 75 units
  - Reduced weight by 65% while maintaining strength
- Materials & Manufacturing
  - Engineered composite surfboards using 3D-printed recycled plastic cores, fiberglass, and bio-based epoxy
  - Optimized fiber orientations, resin schedules, and manufacturing processes to achieve target strength-to-weight ratios
- Business & Operations
  - Built partnerships with Northeastern Univeristy Roux Institute, industry leaders, and suppliers to expand technical capabilities
  - Managed supply chains and sourced sustainable materials, balancing innovation with cost constraints
  - Directed several interns from the Tuck School of Business and Colby College coordinating project work and ensuring deliverables met company goals
- Marketing & Branding
  - Built 33,000+ social media followers through authentic brand building
  - Secured presscovverage in Downeast Magazine, The Inertia, Portland Press Herald, Professional BoatBuilder Magazine, 3Dnatives, and Colby News
  - Built a uniquely identifiable brand backed by customer and partner testimonials