

Zachary Gajewski

CONTACT INFORMATION	Department of Biological Science Derring Hall, Virginia Tech 1405 Perry St. Blacksburg, VA 24061	gzach93@vt.edu
EDUCATION	Ph.D. (Biological Science) Virginia Tech Advisor: Dr. Leah Johnson	Expected: May 2020
	B.S. (Biological Science) B.S. (Psychology) Virginia Tech, VA	May 2015
GRANTS	<p><i>Anthropogenic impacts on amphibian skin microbial communities and assessment of susceptibility to the fungal pathogen <i>Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis</i></i>. Mianus River Gorge, Bedford, NY. 2016-2019 Award Amount: \$15,000 Principal Investigators: Zachary Gajewski and Leah Johnson</p> <p><i>The Effect of Zooplankton Feeding on the Amphibian Chytrid Fungus</i>. Virginia Tech Biology Alumni Undergraduate Research Excellence Award 2015 Award Amount: \$500. Principal Investigators: Zachary Gajewski and Lisa Belden</p> <p><i>Virginia Tech Presidential Enrichment Grant</i>. 2011-2015 Award Amount: \$20,000 Principal Investigator: Zachary Gajewski</p>	
PUBLICATIONS	<p>Gajewski ZJ., Walke J., Becker M., Medina D., Hughes M., Belden L., 2016. The Effect of Zooplankton Feeding on the Amphibian Chytrid Fungus. <i>In prep</i></p> <p>Stevenson LA., Gajewski ZJ., Roznik EA., Johnson L., Alford RA., Pike DA., 2016. Host thermoregulation can override pathogen responses to environmental temperature. <i>In prep</i></p>	
RESEARCH EXPERIENCE	<p><i>Graduate Researcher, Department of Biological Science, Virginia Tech 2016-Present</i> Advisor: Dr. Leah Johnson Originally started PhD program with Dr. Leah Johnson at the University of South Florida in the Integrative Biology Department in 2015. I am currently attending classes to advance my statistical knowledge. I am leading to collaborative projects examining local adaptation of strains of the fungus and how zoospore counts relate to optical densities and whether they can be used interchangeably. I will also be starting my project at Mianus River Gorge during Summer 2017.</p> <p><i>Undergraduate Research Assistant, Department of Biological Science Virginia Tech 2012-2015</i> Advisor: Dr. Lisa Belden I assisted with a variety of projects examining interactions between the amphibian chytrid fungus and symbiotic bacterial communities found on amphibian skin. I learned a number of molecular and microbiology techniques, such as qPCR, working with R, and plating and isolating bacteria. In addition, I developed and executed an independent project investigating whether zooplankton can reduce the abundance of chytrid fungus zoospores in the environment.</p>	

Undergraduate Research Assistant, Department of Biological Sciences, Virginia Tech 2014-2015 **Advisor: Dr. Cayelan Carey** I was involved with projects on aquatic nutrient cycles, including studying the effect of oxygen on phosphorus levels in lakes and how reservoir age affects macroinvertebrate diversity. I learned a number of field sampling techniques and laboratory nutrients quantification techniques.

Undergraduate Research Assistant, Department of Biological Sciences, Virginia Tech 2014 - 2015 **Advisor: Dr. Bryan Brown** I have been involved with diverse stream ecology projects, including comparing macroinvertebrate diversity among headwater and mainstem streams, assessing zooplankton dispersal rates, and examining the impact of sediment depth on zooplankton diversity. I learned many field sampling techniques in streams and how to identify macroinvertebrates.

Environmental Educator Internship, Maria Mitchell Association, Nantucket, MA 2013 During my internship, I helped with a number of on-going projects with American Burying Beetles, snakes, barn owls, and ospreys. I also participated in the daily functions of the organization's aquarium and natural science museum including giving tours, constructing new exhibits, and leading snorkel tours. I also created lesson plans and taught children ages 4-17, with different ages and themes each week.

AWARDS

- Virginia Tech Graduate Student Travel Award (Spring 2017)
- Virginia Tech College of Science Academic Award (Fall 2014)
- Mary Noel Blackwood Psychology Award (Fall 2013)
- College of Science Senora Prichard Memorial Award (Fall 2012)
- Plaisitow New Hampshire Fish and Game Award (Fall 2011)

PRESENTATIONS

Oral Presentations

The Effect of Zooplankton Feeding on the Amphibian Chytrid Fungus Virginia Tech Undergraduate Research Conference. April 2015

Posters

Do Strains of the Amphibian Chytrid Fungus Exhibit Local Adaptation? Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Disease (EEID) Conference, June 2016

A Review of Bioaugmentation Strategies for the Amphibian Chytrid Fungus, Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis University of South Florida Graduate Student Research Symposium, March 2016

The Effect of Zooplankton Feeding on the Amphibian Chytrid Fungus

- Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Disease (EEID) Conference, May 2015
- Virginia Tech Research Symposium, July 2014
- Virginia Tech Undergraduate Research Conference, April, 2014

TEACHING

Biological Statistics 3616, Virginia Tech, Spring 2017, Lecturer

Introduction to Biological Science: Discussion section for non-majors. University of South Florida, Fall 2016

Evolutionary Biology TA. Virginia Tech, Fall 2014

MENTORING
EXPERIENCE

Mianus River Gorge 2016-2019 I am currently working with a New York High School student, to help them develop an individual research project. They are also aiding me with my field collection at Mianus River Gorge, along with a couple undergraduates.

Students:

- i William Crainer, **Hackley High School, Chappaqua New York**
- ii Leila Husain, **Virginia Tech, Blacksburg Virginia** How does your socioeconomic status influence your environmental views? *Honors Project, Spring 2017*

PROFESSIONAL
ACTIVITIES

Member of:

- Society of Undergraduate Researchers at Virginia Tech (Co-Founder and Secretary 2014-2015)
- Phi Sigma Biological Honor Society 2013-2015 (Treasurer 2014-2015)
- Biological Living Learning Community 2011-2013

Workshops and Working Groups

Vector Behavior in Transmission Ecology (VectorBiTE) Coordination Network Clearwater, Florida. March 23rd - 25th 2016. **Workshop Organizer**

VectorBiTE working group on Species interaction and Transmission working group 2016 - Present

National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) Environmental Data Analytics Workshop Boulder, Colorado. July 24th - 29th 2016. Received partial funding for attendance from NCAR.