

AUSTIN KOONTZ

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EDUCATION

Master's of Science, Biology

December 2020

Utah State University (USU), Logan, UT
Overall GPA: 4.0

Bachelor of Science, Neuroscience

May 2014

University of Nevada (UNR), Reno, NV
Minor in Chemistry
Honor's College
Magna Cum Laude
Overall GPA: 3.715

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Utah State University

September 2018 - Present

Research Assistant

Logan, UT

- Served as the system administrator of the Pearse Lab server (Ubuntu OS)
- Mentored undergraduates and provided support for computational questions and issues with lab procedures
- Ran DNA extractions of soil samples as part of a larger microbial analysis

Hamilton Robotics

January 2015 - May 2018

Applications Specialist

Reno, NV

- Wrote scripts automating lab procedures with Hamilton pipetting robots—primarily Illumina NGS library prep, but also blood typing and single cell gene expression assays
- Worked on a team with engineers and project managers serving as the primary technical support contact for automation customers

Van der Linden Neurogenetics Lab

September 2013 - May 2014

Lab Assistant

Reno, NV

- Performed various molecular procedures as part of an undergraduate thesis project: DNA extraction (MiniPrep), PCR, gel electrophoresis and gel extraction, and NGS library prep

Cramer Plant Biochemistry Lab

September 2013 - May 2012

Lab Assistant

Reno, NV

- Managed plants in a vineyard and greenhouse setting
- Performed tissue isolation protocols on wine grapes

UNR Tutoring Center

September 2010 - May 2014

Tutor

Reno, NV

- Tutored individuals and groups in mathematics (Algebra, Trigonometry, Calculus, Statistics), physics (Mechanics, Thermodynamics, Electromagnetism), chemistry (General, Organic, Analytic), and biology (Genetics, Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Evolution).

PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

Proficient	R, BASH, L ^A T _E X, VENUS (Hamilton proprietary software), ArcGIS
Familiar	Python, Ruby, Java

HONORS & AWARDS

Honor's Undergraduate Research Award (UNR)	November 2013
Ecology Center Graduate Research Award (USU; \$1,895)	March 2019
Ivan J. Palmblad Graduate Research Award (USU; \$2,000)	March 2019
Margaret Williams Research Grant (Nevada Native Plant Society ; \$1,000)	March 2019
Dr. Lawrence H. Piette Graduate Scholarship (USU; \$600)	April 2019

PRESENTATIONS

Using phylogenetic transformations to account for effects of sequencing error and intra-specific variation on operational taxonomic unit (OTU) assignment in microbial ecology. Ecological Society of America, Louisville, Kentucky, U.S. August 15 2019.

Resolving the systematics of an endangered primrose species complex (*Primula cusickiana*) to inform management in the Great Basin region of the United States. Ecological Society of America, Salt Lake City, UT, U.S. August 6 2020.