AUSTIN KOONTZ

1322 Denver Street ◇ Boulder City, NV 89005
(775) · 233 · 1266 ◇ austinkoontz11@gmail.com

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 Technician *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, LaTeX, 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

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Koontz, Austin and Pearse, William D. 2020 (*In Review*). SymbiotaR2: Downloading Data from Symbiota2 Portals into R. R package, Version 0.0-1. Journal of Open Source Software, GitHub repository: `https://github.com/pearselab/SymbiotaR2`

Koontz, Austin, Pearse, William D., and Wolf, Paul G. 2020 (*In Prep*). Resolving the systematics of a threatened primrose species complex (*Primula cusickiana*) to inform management in the Great Basin region of the United States. GitHub repository: `https://github.com/akoontz11/Primula`

Koontz, Austin, Pearse, William D., and Wolf, Paul G. 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, Oral presentation. Salt Lake City, UT, U.S. August 6 2020.

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

(*Co-authored*) Lembrechts, JJ, Aalto, J, Ashcroft, MB, et al. SoilTemp: A global database of near-surface temperature. Glob Change Biol. 2020; 00: 1– 14. `https://doi.org/10.1111/gcb.15123`