

# Alissandra Natalia Ayala

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## Research Interest

I am interested in the study of ecological communities and the role that climate change and biodiversity plays in these communities.

## Education

2016 to Present	<b>University of Texas at Austin</b> Biology major, Creative Writing certificate Current Cumulative GPA: 3.4112
Summer 2017	<b>Texas State Technical College, Harlingen</b> GPA: 4.0
Summer 2018	<b>South Texas College</b> GPA: 4.0
2016	<b>South Texas High School for Health Professions</b>

## Research Training

Fall 2018 to Present	<b>The Kemp Lab at UT Austin</b> Compiled data from spreadsheet, textbook, and research paper on all lizard species in the West Indies Photographed parietal and occipital bones of <i>Elgaria multicarinata</i> using a microscope Cleaned CT images of lizards Worked on an independent project categorizing fossilized salamander vertebrae as paedomorphic or metamorphic from a collection spanning 20,000 years
Summer 2019	<b>E3 REU at Harvard</b> Made biweekly phenology observations of a common garden using the BBCH scale Took DBH, width, and height using a clinometer of temperate trees and shrubs Took SLA of leaves Collaborated with a graduate student
Spring 2017	<b>Biofuels FRI program</b> Analyzed and documented lab data Tended to research plants Organized an independent research project Isolated DNA from leaf samples Interpreted gel electrophoresis runs
Fall 2016	<b>Scientific Inquiry: Imaginative</b> Practiced basic research skills such as pipetting Wrote a research paper Designed an independent experiment Delegated tasks to group members

## **Posters, Presentations, and Papers**

**A. Ayala**, C. Chamberlain, N. Holbrook, “Temperate forests! How climate change affects growth and phenology”, *poster presentation*, LANS 2019 Conference

**A. Ayala**, C. Chamberlain, N. Holbrook, “How climate change affects growth and phenology in temperate forests”, *poster presentation*, Summer Undergraduate Research Programs at Harvard Poster Symposium 2019

## **Professional Societies**

Ecological Society of America

The American Society of Naturalists

The Society for Integrated and Comparative Biology

## **Relevant Course Work (134 total hours taken)**

Biology 1 and 2 (3 hours each)

Biology Lab- Biofuels Freshman Research Initiative (2 hours)

Biology of Birds lecture and lab (3 Hours)

Biostatistics (3 hours)

Cell Biology

Chemistry 1 and 2 (3 hours each)

Chemistry Lab (2 hours)

Computational Biology (3 hours)

Ecology (3 hours)

Evolution (3 hours)

Genetics (3 hours)

Organic Chemistry (3 hours)

Plant Molecular Biology (3 hours)

Plant Systematics (4 hours)

Principles of Animal Behavior (3 hours)

Science Communication (3 hours)

## **Awards**

National Hispanic Scholar

AP scholar with distinction

## **Other Experience**

ATX Science Writers (Fall 2018)

Volunteered at three workshops

Conversed with scientists and journalists

Learned about problems scientists and writers face and brainstormed solutions to these problems

Learned techniques for effectively communicating science

Cashier at JCM (Fall 2018- Spring 2019)

Manage check out transactions in the busiest dorm on campus

Organize sales floor

Handle customer conflicts while providing customer service

Food Prep Worker at J2 (Fall 2017- Spring 2018)

Learned how to work under pressure

Developed communication skills by assisting people from different backgrounds

## **Involvement**

ATX Science Writers  
Beevo Beekeeping  
Campus Environmental Center  
Students Fighting Climate Change

## **References**

Melissa Kemp

Lab PI  
Assistant Professor at UT Austin  
[mkemp@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:mkemp@austin.utexas.edu)

Noel Michele Holbrook

Lab PI for summer REU  
Professor at Harvard  
[holbrook@oeb.harvard.edu](mailto:holbrook@oeb.harvard.edu)

Laura Gonzalez

Ecology professor  
Assistant Professor of Instruction at UT Austin  
[ligg@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:ligg@austin.utexas.edu)