

Edna Chiang

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EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Madison, WI

- PhD Student, Microbiology Doctoral Training Program, Department of Bacteriology Sep 2016 - Present
- Advisors: Dr. Garret Suen and Dr. Hannah Carey

University of Michigan

Ann Arbor, MI

- Bachelor of Science with High Distinction Graduation: Apr 30, 2015
- Microbiology (High Honors) and Spanish GPA: 3.85/4.00
- Honors Thesis: Ecology of Verrucomicrobia in a Freshwater Estuary

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Schmidt ML, Biddanda, BA, Weinke AD, **Chiang E**, Januska F, Props R, Denef VJ (2017) Microhabitats shape diversity-productivity relationships in freshwater bacterial communities. *bioRxiv*.

Chiang E, Schmidt ML, Berry MA, Biddanda BA, Burtner AM, Johengen TH, Palladino D, Denef VJ (Submitted) Verrucomicrobia are prevalent in north-temperate freshwater lakes and display class-level preferences between lake habitats. *PLoS ONE*.

Denef VJ, Carrick HJ, Cavaletto J, **Chiang E**, Johengen TH, Palladino D, Vanderploeg HA (2017) Lake bacterial assemblage composition is sensitive to biological disturbance caused by an invasive filter feeder. *mSphere* 2:e00189-17. doi: 10.1128/mSphere.00189-17

Denef VJ, Mueller RS, **Chiang E**, Liebig JR, Vanderploeg HA (2016) Chloroflexi CL500 11 populations that predominate deep lake hypolimnion bacterioplankton rely on nitrogen-rich DOM metabolism and C1 compound oxidation. *Appl. Environ. Microbiol.* 82(5):1423-1432. doi:10.1128/AEM.03014-15.

McCarthy A, **Chiang E**, Schmidt ML, Denef VJ (2015) RNA Preservation Agents and Nucleic Acid Extraction Method Bias Perceived Bacterial Community Composition. *PLoS ONE* 10(3):e0121659. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0121659

SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS

Poster, "Ecology of freshwater Verrucomicrobia, an abundant yet understudied bacterial phylum." Beckman Symposium, Aug 8, 2015, Irvine, CA.

Poster, "Ecology of Verrucomicrobia in a Freshwater Estuary." American Society of Microbiology General Meeting, Jun 2, 2015, New Orleans, LA.

Poster, "Ecology of Verrucomicrobia in a Freshwater Estuary." Program in Biology Undergraduate Research Poster Session, Jun 2, 2015, Ann Arbor, MI.

Presentation, "RNA Preservation Agents and Nucleic Acid Extraction Method Bias Perceived Bacterial Community Composition." University of Michigan Microbial Ecology Working Group, Oct 30, 2014, Ann Arbor, MI

Poster, "Deceptive sexual swellings as a counterstrategy to infanticide." Undergraduate Research Opportunity Symposium, Apr 18, 2012, Ann Arbor, MI.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant, Dr. Garret Suen and Dr. Hannah Carey, University of Wisconsin-Madison

- Linked bacterial taxonomy to function in hibernating 13-lined ground squirrels (*Ictidomys tridecemlineatus*) Jan 2017 – Present
- Prepared DNA libraries for Illumina MiSeq sequencing
- Analyzed bacterial and fungal amplicon sequencing data using mothur and R, and analyzed metagenomics
- Performed stable isotope assisted labeling experiments

Undergraduate Researcher / Lab Technician, Dr. Vincent Deneff, University of Michigan Sep 2012 – Aug 2016

- Optimized fluorescent *in situ* hybridization microscopy protocol, extracted DNA/RNA, prepared samples for amplicon sequencing, created cultures
- Collected water and sediment sample from Muskegon Lake and Lake Michigan
- Applied statistical and bioinformatics techniques to analyze bacterial 16S rRNA data using mothur and R

Undergraduate Researcher, Ruthven Museum of Natural History, University of Michigan May 2012 – Jul 2012

- Analyzed mite abundance and distribution on preserved lizard specimens

Undergraduate Research Opportunity Student, Dr. Jacinta Beehner, University of Michigan Sep 2011 – Apr 2011

- Compared hormone levels with chest patch sexual swellings in gelada baboons (*Theropithecus gelada*)
- Conducted hormone elutions and assays, analyzed chest patch color using Photoshop

AWARDS

- NIH Biotechnology Training Program Traineeship Jan 2017
- Romance Languages and Literatures Student Achievement Award Apr 2015
- Phi Beta Kappa Mar 2015
- Beckman Scholars Fellowship May 2014 – Aug 2015
- American Society of Microbiology Undergraduate Research Fellowship May 2014 – Dec 2014
- University of Michigan Honors Summer Fellowship May 2014 – Aug 2014
- Sophomore Honors Award Nov 2013
- Summer Vincenti Study Abroad Scholarship Apr 2013
- Honors Travel Grant Mar 2013
- James B. Angell Scholar Mar 2013

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Co-Instructor, Biotechnology Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison Nov 2017 – Present

- Co-instructed workshops on analyzing amplicon sequencing data with mothur and R

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Wisconsin-Madison Sep 2017 – Dec 2017

- Assisted in teaching Emerging Infectious Diseases and Bioterrorism (MM&I 554)
- Encouraged student discussion, graded exams and homework

Guest Instructor, Microbiology Capstone Course, University of Wisconsin-Madison Jan 2017 – May 2017

- Designed student research projects in collaboration with Dr. Robin Kurtz and Dr. Melissa Christopherson
- Collected samples for students, taught bioinformatics, and directly aided in bacterial genome assembly

Biochemistry Study Group Leader, Science Learning Center, University of Michigan *Sep 2013 – Apr 2015*

- Created engaging activities to help students enhance their understanding of biochemistry
- Formed strong sense of community to encourage collaborative discussion between students

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Designer and Volunteer, Science Saturday, University of Wisconsin-Madison *Sep 2017 - Present*

- Co-developed and implemented outreach activities with the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery and Morgridge Research Institute to teach hibernation physiology and microbe-host physiology

Volunteer, Biology Outreach Club, University of Wisconsin-Madison *Mar 31, 2017*

- Led “Disco Microbes” activity teaching the importance of proper hand washing at Science Expeditions

Judge, Capital Science & Engineering Fair *Feb 18, 2017*

- Evaluated science projects from Wisconsin high school students and determined prize winners

Volunteer, Wisconsin Science Festival, University of Wisconsin-Madison *Oct 21, 2016*

- Led interactive activity employing color-sensing robots

Spanish Translator, Translate-a-thon, University of Michigan *Oct 2014*

- Translated multiple documents from English to Spanish for local non-profit organizations aiding immigrants and low-income families

Worker and Interpreter, Jatun Sacha, Galapagos Islands *Jul 2013 – Aug 2013*

- Participated in environmental conservation by working with local farmers to develop sustainable farming practices, removing invasive species, and cleaning tortoise nest sites
- Facilitated communication between volunteers and staff by interpreting English and Spanish

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Editorial Board Member, University of Michigan Undergraduate Research Journal *Sep 2012 – Apr 2015*

- Assisted students in improving writing submissions for publication
- Coordinated meetings with corporate sponsors and university departments to increase journal funding
- Performed outreach by conducting presentations to inform undergraduates about research opportunities

Co-President, Arabian Dance Ensemble, University of Michigan *Sep 2011 – Apr 2015*

- Instructed beginning belly dance class and created choreography to teach students
- Oversaw usage of group funds, coordinated costume purchases, and organized performances

SKILLS

- **Lab Skills:** DNA/RNA extraction, PCR, gel electrophoresis, DNA library preparation, Illumina MiSeq sequencing, fluorescent *in situ* hybridization microscopy, limnology field work and sample collection, squirrel trapping

- **Bioinformatics:** R (intermediate), perl (beginner), mothur, amplicon sequencing analysis, metagenomic analysis
- **Languages:** English (fluent), Spanish (fluent), Mandarin Chinese (intermediate)

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Empowering People to Break the Prejudice Habit: Creating Including and Overcoming Bias	<i>Dec 14, 2017</i>
Building Your Networking Confidence	<i>Nov 30, 2017</i>
DELTA – Communicating Science with Everyone	<i>Sep 2017 – Dec 2017</i>
Improv for Scientists (Medicine 710)	<i>Sep 2017 – Oct 2017</i>
DELTA – NSF Application Broader Impacts Workshop	<i>Oct 4, 2017</i>
Oral Science Communication Through Improv Workshop	<i>Jun 26, 2017</i>
CIRTL – Developing a CV or Resume	<i>Jun 22, 2017</i>
What Graduate Students Need to Know about Successful Negotiation	<i>Apr 13, 2017</i>
Science Writing as a Career	<i>Apr 06, 2017</i>
Careers in Government Research Labs	<i>Mar 28, 2017</i>
Public Opinion of Life Science Issues (LSC 902)	<i>Sep 2016 – Dec 2016</i>
Writing Science as a Story (Comp Bio 675)	<i>Nov 2016 – Dec 2016</i>