Gabby Commisso

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Education

Ph.D.	2024-2028 (Expected)	**University of Washington** School of Aquatic and Fisheries Science *Parasite Ecology* Advisor: Dr. Chelsea Wood	Seattle, WA
B.Sc.	2019-2023	**Cornell University** College of Agriculture and Life Science *Environment and Sustainability* *GPA: 4.08 | summa cum laude*	Ithaca, NY

Academic and Professional Experience

2021-2023	**Rawlings Scholar, Cornell University** *Cornell University Museum of Vertebrates* Conducted independent research project: Gut specialization for lower trophic levels shapes morphological evolution in North American minnows and suckers
2022-2023	**Education Collections Assistant** *Paleontological Research Institute at Museum of the Earth* Physical curation of specimens in the Museum's Teaching and Educations collections; responsible for identification, rehousing, numbering, organizing, and occasional culling of fossils, rocks, and minerals in the collection.
2021-2022	**Undergraduate Researcher** *Cornell University Museum of Vertebrates* Conducted two projects using microCT scanning and morphometric techniques: Three-dimensional body shape and pharyngeal tooth evolution in cypriniform fishes and Evolution of deeper bodies in migratory alewives under climate change

Publications

In Press	**G. Commisso**, Burns, M.D., and C.B. Dillman (In press) Gut specialization for lower trophic levels shapes morphological evolution in North American minnows and suckers. *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society*.
In Press	C. Wood, Diaz-Morales, D., Whalen, C., **Commisso, G.**, Leslie, K. (In press) Constructing Disease Baselines at Ecosystem Scales. In: The Ecology and Evolution of Marine Parasites and Disease (Byers, J., Blakeslee, A., Wares, J., Eds). Oxford University Press.

Grants and Fellowships

	TOTAL AWARD AMOUNT: $29,050	
2024	SAFS Graduate Research Grant	$5000
2023	Future Rivers Fellowship, University of Washington	*6 quarters of tuition and stipend funding
2023	NSF Research Experience for Post-Baccalaureate Students Grant	$4550
2022	Cornell Lab of Ornithology Experiential Learning Grant	$6000
2021	Hunter R. Rawlings III Cornell Presidential Research Scholar	$5000
2021	Cornell Lab of Ornithology Experiential Learning Grant	$2500
2021	CALS Undergraduate Research Funding Award	$1000
2019	New York Water Environment Association Environmental Career Scholarship	*$5000

* Denotes funding reserved for tuition costs

Honors

2025	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (NSF GRFP) Honorable Mention

Presentations

2025	**Commisso, G**. [Talk]. *Parasites in Horror: Is the truth stranger than fiction?* Presented at the Pacific Science Center 'Science and a Movie' event in Seattle
2024-2025	**Commisso, G**.; Boyd, D.; Christner, S.; Díaz-Morales, D.; Jones, I.; Leslie, K.; Thirtyacre, J.; Whalen, C.; Kuris, A.M.; Mann, J.; Bart, H.; Wood, C.L. *Do Invaders Amplify or Impoverish Native Parasite Communities? Two Case Studies in North American Ecosystems*. [Poster] Presented at the Western Society of Naturalists (2024, Portland OR) and the International Symposium on Fish Parasites (2025, Mérida, Mexico)
2023	Whalen, C. & **Commisso, G**. 2023. [Talk]. Survival of the Fittest: Application of Darwinism to Aid Resource Allocation in Academia. Graduate Student Symposium. School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, University of Washington

Teaching

2023-Present (Every fall)

Teaching Assistant, University of Washington
FISH406 Parasite Ecology, Dr. Chelsea Wood
Responsible for running weekly wet labs, including dissection of vertebrates and invertebrates, grading midterm and final short-answer exams on a short deadline, and holding weekly office hours. Received a 4.7/5 from anonymous student course evaluations

2023-Present

Elementary Learning Module
Wood Lab, University of Washington
Developing a two-hour lesson introducing parasites and parasitism to elementary-age learners through interactive content such as card games, a "choose your own adventure" presentation, and coloring sheets.

Mentorship

2024-2025

Future Rivers Peer Mentor
Future Rivers Program, National Science Foundation & UW Earth Lab
Mentee: Grace Brennan

2022-2023

First-Year Peer Mentor
Cornell Department of Environmental Science

Service and Outreach

2024

Aquatic Science Open House — Seattle, WA
College of the Environment, University of Washington
Ran a parasite-themed booth at a community science open house, including interactive elements such as a "What Parasite Are You" quiz.

2024

Meridian Elementary STEAM Fair — Seattle, WA
Meridian Park Elementary School, organized by Students Explore Aquatic Science
Organized a parasite-centric booth for local elementary students

2023

Marine Debris Cleanup Team — Cuttyhunk Island, MA
Center for Coastal Studies, Provincetown RI
Over 40 hours of work removing lobster traps and other plastics and debris from the coastline, collaborating with local oyster fishermen. Created artwork from collected trash, displayed in an exhibit highlighting North Atlantic Right Whales mortality due to marine debris in New Bedford, MA

2022

Animal Care Volunteer — Ithaca, NY
Wild by Nurture Wildlife Rescue
Assisting with cleaning enclosures, preparing food, and administering medicine to rehabilitating wildlife including opossums, groundhogs, red squirrel, and

rabbits. Transported animals between the Rescue and the Cornell Wildlife Hospital.