

Curriculum vitae of

# Geoffrey L. Zahn, Ph.D.

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## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2017 - Current** Assistant Professor  
Utah Valley University – Biology Department
- 2018 - Current** Director of Environmental Biology  
GeoDataCrawler Research Institute
- 2015 - 2017** Postdoctoral Research Associate  
University of Hawaii at Manoa – Department of Botany  
Lab of: Dr. Anthony Amend

## EDUCATION

- 2015** PhD in Biology – Microbial and Molecular Ecology  
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR, USA
- 2010** Bachelor of Science in Biology – Ecology, Evolution and Systematics  
Missouri State University, Springfield, MO, USA

## RESEARCH FOCI:

Plant-Microbe interactions  
Microbial community responses/feedbacks to climate change  
The ecology and ecosystem services of protists and fungi  
Factors that shape microbial community formation and function  
Linking local microbial and molecular dynamics to global biogeochemical cycles

## PUBLICATIONS

- Benjamin J. Wainwright, Lutfi Afiq-Rosli, **Geoffrey Zahn**, Danwei Huang. 2019. Characterisation of coral-associated bacterial communities in an urbanised marine environment shows strong divergence over small geographic scales. *Coral Reefs*, 1-10. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00338-019-01837-1>
- Geoffrey Zahn**, Anthony Amend. 2019. Foliar fungi alter reproductive timing and allocation in *Arabidopsis* under normal and water-stressed conditions. *Fungal Ecology*, 41, 101–106.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.funeco.2019.04.002>
- Wainwright BJ., **Zahn GL.**, Arlyza IS., Amend AS. 2018. Seagrass-associated fungal communities follow Wallace's line, but host genotype does not structure fungal community. *Journal of Biogeography*. DOI: [10.1111/jbi.13168](https://doi.org/10.1111/jbi.13168).
- Geoffrey Zahn**, Anthony S Amend. 2017. Foliar microbiome transplants confer disease resistance in a critically-endangered plant. *PeerJ* 5: e4020. DOI: [10.7717/peerj.4020](https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.4020)
- Wainwright BJ., **Zahn GL.**, Spalding HL., Sherwood AR., Smith CM., Amend AS. 2017. Fungi associated with mesophotic macroalgae from the 'Au'au Channel, west Maui are differentiated by host and overlap terrestrial communities. *PeerJ* 5:e3532. DOI: [10.7717/peerj.3532](https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.3532).
- Geoffrey Zahn**, Rota Wagai, Seiichiro Yonemura. 2016. The effects of amoebal bacterivory on carbon and nitrogen dynamics depend on temperature and soil structure interactions. *Soil Biology and Biochemistry*, 94: 133-137. DOI: [http://10.1016/j.soilbio.2015.11.021](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.soilbio.2015.11.021)
- Geoffrey Zahn**, Steven L. Stephenson, Frederick W. Spiegel. 2014. Ecological distribution of protosteloid amoebae in New Zealand. *PeerJ* 2:e296; DOI: [10.7717/peerj.296](https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.296)
- Miriam De Haan, Christine Cocquyt, Alex Tice, **Geoffrey Zahn**, Frederick W. Spiegel. 2014. First records of Protosteloid Amoebae (Eumycetozoa) from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. *Plant Ecology and Evolution*, 147:1, 85-92

Erin R. Murphy, Jacob Boxberger, Robert Colvin, Suk Je Lee, **Geoffrey Zahn**, Fred Loor, Kyoungtae Kim. 2011. Pil1, an eisosome organizer, plays an important role in the recruitment of synaptojanins and amphiphysins to facilitate receptor-mediated endocytosis in yeast. *European Journal of Cell Biology*, 90:10, 825-833

In Review

Darcy JL, Cobian G, Swift S, **Zahn G**, Perry B, Amend AS. Fungal communities living within leaves of native Hawaiian plants are structured by landscape rather than host identity. In review.  
Ben Wainwright; Lutfi Afiq-Rosli; **Geoffrey Zahn**; Danwei Huang. Coral-associated bacteria in an urbanised marine environment show fine-scale community structure. In review, October 2018.

Laura Tipton, **Geoffrey Zahn**, Anthony Amend, Patrick Sheridan, Erin Datlof, Nicole Hynson. A decade of air samples from Mauna Loa Observatory reveal widespread global dispersal patterns in major fungal lineages.

In Preparation

**Geoffrey Zahn**, John Shadwick, Fred Spiegel. Protosteloid amoebae as a flagship group for investigating the global distribution of naked amoebae. In preparation.

## TECHNICAL REPORTS

Geoffrey Zahn, Anthony Amend. 2017. Role of fungal endophytes and epiphytes in endangered species conservation. O'ahu Army Natural Resources Program Year-End Report ([PDF LINK](#))

Geoffrey Zahn, Anthony Amend. 2016. Molecular assessment of wild *Achatinella mustelina* diet. O'ahu Army Natural Resources Program Year-End Report ([PDF LINK](#))

Geoffrey Zahn, Anthony Amend. 2015. Molecular assessment of wild *Achatinella mustelina* diet. O'ahu Army Natural Resources Program Year-End Report ([PDF LINK](#))

## CODE CONTRIBUTIONS AND TUTORIALS

<https://github.com/gzahn/tools>

<http://geoffreyzahn.com/blog-archive>

## AWARDS AND FUNDING (Total: \$1,144,704)

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| <b>2019</b> | Presidential Fellowship for Faculty Scholarship – Utah Valley University ( <b>\$8,000</b> )<br>PI: "Soil microbial predation in a changing climate"                                     |
| <b>2019</b> | Undergraduate Research Grant (URSCA) awarded to advisee Jonathan Wasden ( <b>\$1,987</b> )<br>PI: "Forest fires and endophytes"   |
| <b>2019</b> | Undergraduate Research Grant (URSCA) awarded to advisees Natiri Swenson ( <b>\$840</b> )<br>PI: "Pathogenic nematode density under various orchard management strategies"               |
| <b>2018</b> | NSF (DUE – 1833880) ( <b>\$972,287</b> )<br>PI: "Faculty-Mentored Experiences for Improving Undergraduate Biology Student Outcomes"   |
| <b>2018</b> | SEED Grant for Engaged Learning ( <b>\$9,597</b> ) – Utah Valley University<br>PI: "Engaging undergraduates in advanced research – Year two"  |
| <b>2018</b> | Undergraduate Research Grant (URSCA) awarded to advisees Alyssa Tidwell and Jenni Lawrence ( <b>\$2,970</b> )<br>PI: "Fungal and bacterial community structure during wetland recovery" |
| <b>2018</b> | Undergraduate Research Grant (URSCA) awarded to advisees Spencer McGee ( <b>\$1,740</b> )<br>PI: "Soil microbial responses after the Pole Creek Fire in Utah"                           |
| <b>2018</b> | Undergraduate Research Grant (URSCA) awarded to advisee Garrett Matthews ( <b>\$978</b> )<br>PI: "Examining the roles of endophytes in leaf decomposition"                              |
| <b>2018</b> | Undergraduate Research Grant (URSCA) awarded to advisees Bryce Brunetti and Jordan Bayly ( <b>\$833</b> )<br>PI: "Underwater heroes: finding a chytrid antagonist"                      |
| <b>2018</b> | Undergraduate Research Grant (URSCA) awarded to advisees Nicholas Long and Harrison Haws ( <b>\$3,000</b> )<br>PI: "Lifestyle determinants of the human oral microbiome"                |
| <b>2018</b> | Undergraduate Research Grant (URSCA) awarded to advisees Alyssa Tidwell and Spencer McGee ( <b>\$3,000</b> )  |

- PI: "Community assembly of soil fungi within a fire chronosequence"
- 2018** Undergraduate Research Grant (URSCA) awarded to advisee Bryce Brunetti **(\$350)**  
PI: "Construction of a mock fungal community for high-throughput amplicon research"
- 2018** Capitol Reef National Park Field Station Grant **(\$2,550)**  
PI: "Development of non-detrimental methods to survey fungal endophytes in endangered cacti"
- 2018** GREEN Grant **(\$29,327)** – Utah Valley University  
Co-PI: "Assessing the Implementation of Undergraduate Research Teams at an Open Enrollment Institution"
- 2018** SEED Grant for Engaged Learning **(\$9,650)** – Utah Valley University  
PI: "Engaging undergraduates in advanced research: The functional roles of halophilic fungi along a salinity gradient in the Great Salt Lake"
- 2016** Mycological Society of America Translational Mycology Postdoctoral Award **(\$2,500)**  
"Plant conservation from a microbial perspective"
- 2015** Oahu Army Natural Resources Program – Rare Plant Management **(\$40,500)**  
Co-Investigator and Writer - "Restoration of critically endangered Hawaiian native plants by understanding and manipulating foliar microbial symbionts"
- 2014** Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Alumnus Travel Award **(\$750)**  
Presentation: "Harnessing eukaryotic microbes in agricultural soils for reduced carbon turnover"
- 2014** Dept. of Energy Joint Genome Institute IMG Workshop Travel Award **(\$425)**
- 2013** JSPS Summer Research Fellowship (JSPS-SP01363) **(\$12,500)**  
Co-P.I. - "The Importance of Microbial Interactions to Soil Carbon Cycling on a Warming Planet"
- 2013** NSF EAPSI Grant (OISE-1308856) **(\$5,070)**  
P.I. - "The Importance of Microbial Interactions to Soil Carbon Cycling on a Warming Planet"
- 2013** *Clean Air – Cool Planet* Climate Fellowship **(\$5,000)**  
Fellowship: "Assessing the status of USDA Green Ribbon Schools nationally"
- 2011** Mycological Society of America Travel Award **(\$350)**
- 2011** NSF GK-12 Fellowship **(\$30,500)**  
Fellowship: "Inquiry and Innovative Thinking by Design"

## PRESENTATIONS

### Invited Seminars:

- 2018** ["The causes and consequences of fungal community structure"](#)  
University of Arkansas, USA
- 2018** "The causes and consequences of fungal community structure"  
Missouri State University, USA
- 2016** "Picky Eaters: Prey choice by soil protists is altered by temperature and soil structure"  
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA
- 2015** *"Effects of belowground trophic complexity on carbon cycling under changing climatic and edaphic conditions"*  
Joint Genome Institute, Walnut Creek, CA, USA
- 2015** *"The functional and distributional ecology of mycetozoans under changing edaphic and climatic dynamics"*  
Climate Impact Research Center, Abisko, Sweden
- 2014** "Public science literacy and targeted environmental initiatives" NWA Environmental Programs Symposium
- 2014** "The functional and distributional ecology of slime molds in a changing climate" NIAES, Tsukuba, Japan
- 2013** "The Ecology of Soil Mycetozoa" Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology, Yokosuka, Japan
- 2012** "The Mycetozoans" Organization for Tropical Studies, Las Cruces, Costa Rica

### Posters and Talks:

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| <b>2016</b> | "Fungal endophytes and pathogens in endangered hawaiian endemics: Plant conservation from a microbial perspective" Mycological Society of America, Berkeley, CA, USA  |
| <b>2014</b> | "Amoebae in warming soils: interactive effects of the microbial food web and environmental factors on nutrient cycling in a changing climate" A2C Research Symposium, Fayetteville, AR, USA   |
| <b>2014</b> | "The interactive effects of protozoan predation pressure and environmental factors on carbon and nitrogen cycling in soils under warming conditions" International Society for Microbial Ecology; Seoul, South Korea                        |
| <b>2014</b> | "Application of high-throughput sequencing may explain carbon dynamics under predation and warming gradients via soil community shifts" JSPS Multidisciplinary Science Forum 4; Washington, D.C., USA                                       |
| <b>2014</b> | "Using metagenomics and metatranscriptomics to uncover mechanisms of soil communities' effects on carbon cycling under warming conditions" DOE Joint Genome Institute – Microbial Genomics and Metagenomics Workshop; Walnut Creek, CA, USA |
| <b>2013</b> | "The Role of Soil Amoebae in Nutrient Cycling on a Warming Planet" Graduate University for Advanced Studies; Sokendai, Japan  |
| <b>2011</b> | "The Protosteloid Amoebae of New Zealand" Mycological Society of America; Fairbanks, AK, USA  |
| <b>2010</b> | "Pil1's Role on Regulating Membrane PIP2 Level" INBRE Conference; Fayetteville, AR, USA   |
| <b>2010</b> | "The Effects of Prescribed Fire on Overwintering Fungal Abundance and Diversity: A Baseline Study" CNAS Undergraduate Research Symposium; Springfield, MO, USA  |
| <b>2009</b> | "Endocytic Roles of Pil1, the Main Organizer of Eisosomes" Arkansas INBRE Research Conference; Fayetteville, AR, USA  |

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ACADEMIC SERVICE

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>2019</b>                      | NSF GRFP review panel (ecology)   |
| <b>2018 – Current</b>            | Faculty Senate – Utah Valley University   |
| <b>2018</b>                      | Faculty search committees for positions in Environmental Microbiology and Molecular Field Botany - UVU                              |
| <b>2015 -- 2016</b>              | Endangered species conservation – Collaboration with US Army Environmental Division and the 'Oahu Natural Resources Program, Hawaii |
| <b>2014 – 2015</b>               | Course Development – Online Biology Lab<br>University of Arkansas   |
| <b>2013</b><br>May – Aug.        | International Research – Soil Physiology and Ecology<br>National Institute for Agro-Environmental Sciences, Tsukuba, Japan          |
| <b>2013 – 2016</b>               | IUCN Species Survival Commission – Myxomycete group   |
| <b>2012</b><br>Jul. – Aug.       | Field Research – Tropical Lichen Ecology<br>Organization for Tropical Studies, Costa Rica   |
| <b>2011 – 2012</b><br>Jun. – May | National Science Foundation GK-12 Teaching Fellow<br>University of Arkansas; Owl Creek Middle School, Fayetteville, AR              |
| <b>2010</b><br>Jan. – Dec.       | Undergraduate Research Assistant – Forest Fire Ecology<br>Missouri State University Dept. of Biology                                |
| <b>2009</b><br>Jan. – Dec.       | Undergraduate Research Assistant – Yeast Genetics<br>Missouri State University Dept. of Biology                                     |

### MENTORING AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>Mentorship</b> | Undergraduate student mentor (29 students)<br>Graduate Student Mentor (4 Masters, 3 PhD) |
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## Courses

- Mycology – UVU (Developed and taught)  
Integrated lecture/lab with molecular methods (1 semester)
- Majors' Biology II – UVU (Developed and taught)  
Large-format lecture (5 semesters)
- Introduction to Data Analysis in R – UVU (Developed and taught)  
Project-based BASH and R training with applied biostatistics (2 semesters)
- Plant Pathology – UVU (Developed and taught)  
Research-based course design (1 semester)
- Online Biology Lab (Non-majors) – UArk (Developed and taught)  
Developed, administered, and evaluated simulation-based labs for non-majors (1 semester)
- Principles of Biology (Honors Undergraduate) – UArk Teaching Assistant  
Lab for biology majors (5 semesters)
- Comparative Botany (Graduate level) – UArk Teaching Assistant  
Lab component (1 semester)
- Mycology (Graduate level) – UArk Teaching Assistant  
Lab component (1 semester)
- Experimental Design (Undergraduate) – UArk Teaching Assistant (Taught)  
Computer lab component (1 semester)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science and Math (NSF GK-12 Teaching Fellow)  
Developed and taught inquiry-based lessons (1 year)

## ACADEMIC AND OTHER SOCIETIES (Active participant)

International Society for Microbial Ecology  
Mycological Society of America  
International Society for Fungal Conservation  
Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Alumni Association  
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) – Species Survival Group (Myxomycetes)

## OUTREACH & MEDIA

- 2019** Funded S-STEM proposal featured by NSF at Council of Undergraduate Research Dialogues plenary session – Arlington, VA
- 2018** ScienceNews article on plant microbiomes featuring endangered plant work  
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/plant-microbes-crops-food-endangered-species?tgt=nr>
- 2018** “In plaats van spuiten, planten helpen met micro-organismen”  
<https://bit.ly/2IeHlr4>
- 2018** Trailside STEM Night – Park City, UT
- 2017** “Researchers find scores of potentially new species of fungi in deep waters off Maui”  
<https://bit.ly/318xKQm>
- 2017** Judge - Windward District Science and Engineering Fair, HI
- 2016** Research spotlight at 2016 IUCN Congress - "Using fungi to save endangered plants"
- 2016** Hawaii GENE-ious K-12 Curriculum Development
- 2014** Ten Thousand Microscopes Beta Tester – K-12 Content Generator

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>2011 – 2015</b> | Judge – NWA Regional Science Fair                                   |
| <b>2008 – 2009</b> | James River Basin Partnership Science Committee, Springfield, MO    |
| <b>2007</b>        | Research Technician - Missouri State University Greenhouse          |
| <b>2006</b>        | Volunteer Ecologist - Reserva Bosque Nuboso Santa Elena, Costa Rica |

#### **PEER REVIEW**

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Reviewer for: | Soil Biology and Biochemistry (Distinguished Reviewer) |
|               | PeerJ  |
|               | Pedobiologia (Distinguished Reviewer)                  |
|               | Oikos  |
|               | ISME Journal   |
|               | Fungal Ecology (Distinguished Reviewer)                |
|               | Molecular ecology                                      |