

# GEOFF ZAHN, PHD

Associate Professor of Biology | Assoc. Dept. Chair - UVU Biology

**Translational microbial ecology | Microbiomes and symbiosis**



## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Current  
|  
2023  
  
2023  
|  
2017  
  
2017  
|  
2015



### **Associate Professor & Assoc. Dept. Chair**

Utah Valley University

📍 Orem, UT



### **Assistant Professor**

Utah Valley University

📍 Orem, UT



### **Postdoctoral Associate**

University of Hawai'i at Manoa

📍 Honolulu, HI



## EDUCATION

2015  
  
2010



### **University of Arkansas**

Ph.D. in Biology

📍 Fayetteville, AR



### **Missouri State University**

B.S. in Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics

📍 Springfield, MO



## SELECTED FUNDING AND AWARDS

**Total funding: \$1,193,494**

### ***Pending funding***

**Collaborative Research: Burning questions in microbial ecology: Ecological mechanisms that control microbiome transplant outcomes** Co-PI | NSF DEB

**S-STEM: Faculty-Mentored Experiences for Improving Undergraduate Biology Student Outcomes** PI | NSF DUE (submitted for 6-year extension)

2023  
|  
2018



### **PI: Faculty-Mentored Experiences for Improving Undergraduate Biology Student Outcomes**

\$972,287

📍 NSF (DUE - 1833880)

## CONTACT INFO

✉ [gzahn@uvu.edu](mailto:gzahn@uvu.edu)

🌐 [github.com/gzahn](https://github.com/gzahn)

🏠 <https://gzahn.github.io>

🆔 [ORCID](#)

## SKILLS

### **Computational:**

R  
Bash  
SQL  
Python  
Unix admin  
High-performance  
computing  
Metagenomics /  
Metabarcoding

### **Wet-lab:**

DNA (extraction/prep/seq/etc.)  
Culturing (Fungi and 'Protists')  
Microscopy  
(BF/DIC/Fluor/SEM)  
Soil analysis  
Microcosms

### **Academic:**

Course and program design  
Active learning  
Course-based  
undergraduate research  
Mentoring  
Lab management  
Grants management



## PUBLICATIONS (MOST RECENT 3)

[Google Scholar Profile](#)

- 2023 ● **Wallace's line is a barrier to the dispersal of seagrass-associated marine bacteria**  
Wainwright B, Leon J, Hickman KJE, Vilela E, Caldwell J, Aimone B, Bischoff P, Ohran M, Morelli M, Arlyza I, Marwayana O, & **Zahn G.** *In Review*
- 2023 ● **The core mangrove microbiome reveals shared taxa potentially involved in nutrient cycling and promoting host survival.**  
Wainwright BJ, Millar T, Bowen L, Semon L, Hickman KJE, Lee JN, Yeo ZY, & **Zahn G.** *Environmental Microbiome* 10.1186/s40793-023-00499-5.
- 2023 ● **Inclusion of database outgroups reduces false positives in fungal metabarcoding taxonomic assignments.**  
Rawson C, & **Zahn G.** *Mycologia* 10.1080/00275514.2023.2206931



## TEACHING AND MENTORING

- Designed a new [Bioinformatics Degree Program](#)  
Experienced with univ. curriculum processes and accreditation
- See teaching [website](#) for courses



## SELECTED INVITED PRESENTATIONS (MOST RECENT 3)

- 2023 ● **Translating mentored undergraduate research into student retention and success**  
National Science Foundation S-STEM Symposium 📍 Washington, D.C.
- 2022 ● **Less content, more context: Research as pedagogy in undergraduate mycology courses**  
Mycological Society of America 📍 FL, USA
- 2018 ● **The causes and consequences of fungal community structure**  
University of Arkansas/Missouri State University 📍 AR/MO, USA

## 🍏 Societies & Service:

Editor of *Mycologia*  
Education Committee -  
Mycological Society of America  
IUCN Species Survival Group -  
Slime Moulds Specialist  
Member: ISME, MSA, Intl. Soc.  
for Fungal Conserv., Japan SPS  
Alumni Assoc.  
NSF GK-12 Teaching Fellow  
(2011-2012)  
Faculty senator - UVU (2017-  
2020)  
Program and course  
development (Univ. of  
Arkansas, Utah Valley Univ.)  
Faculty search committees  
(Chair 1x, Member 6x)  
Council for Undergraduate  
Research (member)

## 👤 Mentorship:

Graduate committee member  
(4 MS, 3 PhD)  
Undergrad research mentor  
(38 students)  
[Lab alumni](#)  
Junior faculty mentor (2023)

## 🗣️ Outreach:

Stockman Grass Farmer  
Magazine [Article](#)  
ScienceNews [Article](#) featuring  
work  
[Article](#) on my marine mycology  
discoveries  
Annual science fair judge  
6th-grade teacher and inquiry-  
based lesson planning (2011-  
2012)

## 🔗 Code examples:

[Microbiome protocol for  
ITS/16S exploration](#)  
[R for Biologists Course](#)  
[Custom Unix tools](#)  
[QIIME Database generator](#)  
[Bioinfo Data Skills Course](#)