

Gretel “Alexandra” Juarez

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EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Biology and Minor in Biostatistics
Loyola University Chicago

May 2024

RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

Field Technician Volunteer

Investigating Avian Disease Prevalence between Farm and Control Sites
McGraw Lab, Michigan State University

May 2025- Present

- Conduct mist-net setup, bird extraction, morphological measurements, banding, disease symptoms observations, cloacal sampling, and blood sampling with ketone and glucose measurements

Research Assistant – Vocal Development

Analyzing Socially Learned Vocalizations in Zebra Finches
The Smith-Vidaurri (BIRDS) Lab, Michigan State University

September 2024 - Present

- Manage daily animal husbandry tasks for zebra finches
- Run lab work such as DNA extraction, PCR, and gel electrophoresis
- Record bird vocalizations and analyze them on Raven to identify socially learned calls
- Troubleshoot technology and develop code for issues, unit tests, and vignettes using R and GitHub
- Mentor undergraduate researchers in the lab

Research Assistant

Evaluating Sexual Dimorphism in Spotted Sandpipers
Lipshutz Lab, Loyola University Chicago

January 2022 - May 2024

- Ran lab work including DNA extraction, PCR, gel electrophoresis
- Statistically analyzed sex differences in morphology by generating figures with RStudio
- Recorded bird vocalizations with Marantz and AudioMoths, later analyzed in Raven

Field Technician

Undergraduate Summer Research Program, Loyola University Chicago + UC Davis

May - July 2022

- Conducted mist-net setup, morphological measurements, banding, blood sampling, radio telemetry, nest monitoring, and acoustic recording
- Hiked 3-5 miles daily at ~6,400 ft elevation carrying field gear in the Mono Basin, CA
- Optimized daily field data entry in Excel

ACADEMIC AND FIELD SKILLS

- Software experience with Excel/Word/PowerPoint, Canva, R Studio, Raven, and GitHub
- Mist netting, Radio Telemetry, Marantz Recording

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

- Ecology, Evolution, Evolutionary Medicine, Infectious Diseases in Wildlife
- General Biology, Genetics, Cell Biology, Anatomy & Physiology, Introduction to Research
- Introductory Biostatistics, Advanced Biostatistics, Linear Regression (based on R)
- Inorganic Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Biochemistry, Physics I and II

RELEVANT EXPERIENCES

Conference Volunteer , American Ornithology Society	1 October - 5 October 2024
• Prepared technology for moderators and speakers during oral presentation sessions	
Treasurer/Founder , Latin Music Ensemble, Loyola University Chicago	January 2023 - May 2024
• Coached and performed Latin music to promote and celebrate diversity on campus	
Spanish Interpreter , CommunityHealth Free Clinic	April 2022 - May 2024
• Interpreted conversations between patients and doctors	
Lead Singer/Vocal Instructor , Patches & Albo	April 2022 - Present
• Direct rehearsals and performances as the frontman, and conceptualizing setlists	
• Guide students (of all ages) in singing and performance techniques	
President/Founder , Care-olers	January 2022 - May 2024
• Developed and performed music for the Lakefront Nursing and Rehabilitation Center	
Treasurer/Secretary , Mujeres en Medicina, Loyola University Chicago	January 2022 - May 2024
• Mentored womxn pursuing a healthcare career and provided a supportive community	
Medical Assistant , Milwaukee Avenue Doctor's Office	December 2021 - May 2024
• Examined and recorded patient vitals before the doctor's visit	
Shadowing Student , Loyola University Medical Center	November 2020 - 2021
• Observed the Director of the Anesthesiology Department's daily work activities	
Students Together Are Reaching Success (STARS) Mentor , Loyola University Chicago	Aug 2020 - May 2024
• Mentored incoming freshman through their transition to college	
Licensed Real Estate Broker , Bright Future Realty Inc.	July 2020 - May 2023
• Negotiated prices of real estate property and scheduled property showings	

AWARDS AND HONORS (Total \$11,500)

- Building Community Bridges Scholarship, Loyola, 2023 (\$1000)
- The Animal Behavior Society Charles H. Turner Award, 2023
- Biology Summer Research Fellowship Program, Loyola, 2023 (\$3000)
- Mulcahy Scholarship, Loyola University Chicago, 2022 & 2023 (\$2000)
- STARS Mentor Scholarship, Loyola University Chicago, 2022 & 2023 (\$3000)
- College of Arts and Sciences Summer Research Experience, Loyola, 2022 (\$2500)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

GA Juarez, T Patton, Q Thomas, J Schaefer, SE Lipshutz. When females compete and males care: Phenotypic differences in the spotted sandpiper.

- American Ornithology Society. Estes Park, CO. October 2024.
- Animal Behavior Society. Portland, OR. July 2023.
- Loyola Undergraduate Research and Engagement Symposium. April 2023.
- Chicago Area Undergraduate Research Symposium. Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center, Chicago, IL. March 2023.

LANGUAGES

Spanish, Native Proficiency
English, Fluent