

Lauren V. Ash

University of Vermont, Department of Biology
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EDUCATION

2015 – present PhD candidate, University of Vermont, Advisor Dr. Nicholas Gotelli
Biology department, Emerging infectious diseases in New England amphibian communities

2014 Master of Research, University College London, Advisor Dr. Kate Jones
Biodiversity, Evolution & Conservation

2012 Bachelor of Science, University of Florida
Wildlife Ecology and Conservation with an emphasis on Wildlife Ecology

RESEARCH INTERESTS

I am broadly interested in the interactions of pathogens, their hosts, and the environment. I use an integrated approach and combine field, molecular, and computational techniques to address questions in the field of disease ecology, such as species distributions and interactions, pathogen transmission dynamics, and how biotic and abiotic stressors influence these relationships.

RESEARCH

2014 Developing a tool for the monitoring of seaweed habitat change
Natural History Museum, London, Advisors Prof. Juliet Brodie and Dr. Chris Yesson
Created models using high-resolution imagery and field survey data with QGIS and R to determine whether seaweed habitats can be accurately differentiated through remote sensing technology

2014 Anthrax risk map of Africa: incorporating ecological theory into disease modeling
University College London, Advisors Dr. Kate Jones and Dr. David Redding
Created MAXENT, Boosted Regression Tree, and Generalized Linear Models using predictors that incorporated ecological factors, as well the standard bioclimatic variables

2012 UF in Swaziland
University of Florida, Advisor Dr. Robert McCleery
Used an aardvark burrow camera to determine whether the burrows provided important habitat for other species

2011-2012 Avian ecology in Goethe State Forest
Florida Forest Service, Supervisor Charlie Pedersen
Banded fledgling Red-bellied Woodpeckers, identified Red-cockaded roosting clusters, installed artificial nest boxes, censused Nightjar population

2011 UF in Belize

University of Florida, Advisor Dr. William Giuliano

Studied the differences in biodiversity between natural pine communities and pine plantations and marine and coastal reef habitats

PUBLICATIONS

1. Oda F.H., S. Ferreira dos Anjos, J. E. Paula Lima, **L. V. Ash**, K. M. Campião, and D. J. Rodrigues. 2018. Multi-male spawning in the Spotted toad *Rhaebo guttatus* (Anura, Bufonidae). Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, in press
2. Rijks J. M., B. Saucedo, J. L. Brunner, P. Hick, D. Lesbarrères, A. Duffus, **L. V. Ash**, and R. E. Marschang. 2018. Report on the 4th International Symposium on Ranaviruses 2017. Journal of Herpetological Medicine and Surgery 28:13-18
3. Brodie J., **L. V. Ash**, I. Tittley, and C. Yesson. 2018. A comparison of multispectral aerial and satellite imagery for mapping intertidal seaweed communities. Aquatic Conservation <https://doi.org/10.1002/aqc.2905>

AWARDS

2019 Graduate Teaching Assistant of the Year (Biology department and UVM Graduate College)
2019 University of Vermont Ronald Suiter Prize \$1000
2018 Best Graduate Student Poster Award, NEPARC conference \$100
2018 University of Vermont Dr. Roberto Fabri Fialho Research Award \$1850
2018 University of Vermont's Art of Biology (photography contest) 1st place
2017 UVM Biology Graduate Research Development Award \$500
2017 Global Ranavirus Consortium Travel Grant \$1500
2017 The University of Vermont Graduate College Summer Fellowship \$2000
2016 The University of Vermont John Wheeler Award \$2000
2013 University College London scholarship £2000
2007 – 2011 Florida Academic Scholars Award full tuition scholarship ~\$50,000

TEACHING

Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA)

Computational Biology (graduate and advanced undergraduate students)

2018 Fall semester
2017, 2018, 2020 Spring semesters

Ecology and Evolution (undergraduate Biology majors)

2015 - 2018 Fall semesters

Exploring Biology (freshman undergraduate Biology majors)

2016 and 2019 Spring semesters

Co-coordinator of BCOR 102: Ecology and Evolution laboratory

2018 Fall semester

Guest lecturer

2018 Computational Biology, lecture on data manipulation and the R package dplyr

MENTORSHIP

University of Vermont

2019 – present Sarah Clarke, Undergraduate Research credit

2018 – present Raymond Looney, Undergraduate Research credit, Accelerated Master's student,
Simon Fellowship recipient (\$5000)

2018 – present Hannah Lewis, Undergraduate Research credit

2018 – present TJ Mandelkorn, Undergraduate Research credit

2018 Zoey November, Fieldwork assistant, Rubenstein Summer Internship recipient

2017 – 2018 Adam Slamin, Undergraduate Research credit, APLE award recipient (\$500)

2017 – 2018 Piotr Sowulewski, Laboratory research work study, Barbara Kay Research Fund
recipient (\$500)

2017 – 2018 Conor Kiely, Undergraduate Research credit

2017 – 2018 Abbi Smith, Undergraduate Research credit, Summer Undergraduate Research
Fellowship recipient (\$5000)

2017 Portia Smith, Fieldwork assistant and Undergraduate Research credit

2016 – 2017 Sarah Cuprewich, Fieldwork assistant and Undergraduate Research credit

2016 - 2017 Sophia Semen, Fieldwork and laboratory research assistant

2016 Aswini Cherukuri, Fieldwork research assistant

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2019 Parasitology of amphibians and reptiles

Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso, Sinop, MT, Brazil

2017 Conservation Medicine and Amphibian and Reptile Disease

American Museum of Natural History Course, Southwestern Research Station

2015 Software Carpentry assistant

PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 University of Vermont student research conference (poster presentation)
- 2019 University of Vermont graduate seminar (oral presentation)
- 2018 Annual Vermont State Park Interpreter Meeting, Castleton, VT (invited talk)
- 2018 Branbury State Park, Brandon, VT (invited talk)
- 2018 L.L. Bean, Burlington, VT (invited talk)
- 2018 Northeast Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation conference, Springfield, MA (poster)
- 2018 Vermont Wildlife Disease Meeting, Colchester, VT (oral presentation)
- 2018 Northeast Natural History Conference, MA (talk and disease ecology session moderator)
- 2018 University of Vermont graduate seminar (oral presentation)
- 2017 Northeast Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation conference, VA (poster)
- 2017 4th International Ranavirus Symposium, Budapest, Hungary (poster)
- 2017 University of Vermont graduate seminar (oral presentation)
- 2016 University of Vermont graduate seminar (oral presentation)
- 2015 University of Vermont graduate seminar (oral presentation)

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

- Global Ranavirus Consortium (GRC)
- Northeast Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (NEPARC)
- American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH)