

Michelle L. Gaynor

Department of Biology & Florida Museum of Natural History at the University of Florida

Dickinson Hall, 1659 Museum Rd, Gainesville, FL 32611

MichelleGaynor@ufl.edu | shellyleegaynor@gmail.com

www.mlgaynor.com

Research Interest

Angiosperm evolution and ecology, with a focus on polyploids. My dissertation research focuses on the formation and persistence of co-occurring multi-cytotype autopolyploid populations.

Education

Ph.D. candidate in Botany 2018 – 2024 (expected)

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL; Advisor: Dr. Pamela S. Soltis and Douglas E. Soltis

B.S., Biology 2014 – 2018

University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL; Advisor: Dr. Eric A. Hoffman

Publications

*equally contributing authors, °mentored undergraduate

[Google Scholar](#), ORCID ID: 0000-0002-3912-6079

6. **Gaynor ML**, Fu C, Gao L, Lu L, Soltis DE, and Soltis PS. 2020. Biogeography and ecological niche evolution in Diapensiaceae inferred from phylogenetic analysis data. *Journal of Systematics and Evolution*, 58(5): 646 – 662. doi: 10.1111/jse.12646
5. **Gaynor ML***, Lim-Hing S*, and Mason CM. 2020. Genome duplication impact on secondary metabolite composition in non-cultivated species: A systematic meta-analysis. *Annals of Botany*, 126: 363–376. doi: 10.1093/aob/mcaa107
4. **Gaynor ML**, Walters LJ, and Hoffman EA. 2019. Assessing genetic diversity within natural populations of smooth cordgrass to ensure effective restoration efforts. *Restoration Ecology*, 27(6): 1452 – 1462. doi: 10.1111/rec.13014
3. An H, Qi X, **Gaynor ML**, Hao Y, Grebken SC, Mabry ME, Conant GC, Barker M, Fu T, Yi B, and Pires JC. 2019. Transcriptome and organellar sequencing highlights the complex origin and diversification of allotetraploid *Brassica napus*. *Nature Communication*, 10: 2878. doi: 10.1038/s41467-019-10757-1
2. **Gaynor ML**, Marchant DB, Soltis DE, and Soltis PS. 2018. Climatic niche comparison among ploidal levels in the classic autopolyploid system, *Galax urceolata* (Diapensiaceae). *American Journal of Botany*, 105(10): 1–12. doi: 10.1002/ajb2.1161.

1. **Gaynor ML**, Ng J, and Laport RG. 2018. Phylogenetic structure of plant communities: Are polyploids distantly related to co-occurring diploids? *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, 6(52): 1-14. doi: 10.3389/fevo.2018.00052.

In review OR In preparation:

Gaynor ML, Soltis DE, Soltis PS, and Ponciano JM. Formation, establishment, and persistence or autopolyploid populations. *In prep.*

Folk RA*, **Gaynor ML***, Okuyama Y, Engle-Wrye NJ, O'Meara BC, Soltis PS, Soltis DS, Guralnick RP, Smith SA, Grady CJ, Okuyama Y. Identifying climatic drivers of hybridization in *Heuchera* (Saxifragaceae). *In prep.*

Mabry ME, Caomhanach N, Abrahams RS, **Gaynor ML**, Pham KK, Williams TM, Murphy KS, Smocovitis VB, Soltis DE, and Soltis PS. Building an inclusive plant taxonomy: A radicle dream. *In prep.*

Landis JB, O'Connor TK, **Gaynor ML**, Deanna R, Nguyen KA, Ng J, Laport RG. Investigating the origins of the American amphitropical disjuncts *Larrea tridentata* and *Larrea divaricata*. *In prep.*

Patten N °, **Gaynor ML**, Soltis DE, and Soltis PS. Geographic and taxonomic occurrence R-based scrubbing (gatoRs): An R package and reproducible workflow for processing biodiversity data. *In prep.*

Non-peer-reviewed publications:

Gaynor ML. 2022. *Galax* – Pirates, fire, and 100 years of confusion. [iDigBio Research Spotlight](#).

Gaynor ML, and Valdes I. 2021. Student Section. [Plant Science Bulletin 67\(2\): 116 – 121](#).

Gaynor ML, and Valdes I. 2021. Student Section. [Plant Science Bulletin 67\(1\): 40 – 53](#).

Gaynor ML, and Valdes I. 2020. Student Section. [Plant Science Bulletin 66\(3\): 236 – 248](#).

Min Y, and **Gaynor ML**. 2020. Student Section. [Plant Science Bulletin 66\(2\): 129 – 138](#).

Min Y, and **Gaynor ML**. 2020. Student Section. [Plant Science Bulletin 66\(1\): 38 – 39](#).

Min Y, and **Gaynor ML**. 2019. Get to know your new student representative. [Plant Science Bulletin 65\(3\): 177 – 179](#).

Gaynor ML and Lim-Hing S. 2019. Establishing a BSA student chapter at our university. [Plant Science Bulletin 65\(1\): 53 – 54](#).

Gaynor ML. 2019. Climatic niche modeling for beetleweed (*Galax urceolata*, Diapensiaceae). [iDigBio Research Spotlight](#).

Gaynor ML. 2018. Making the most out of summer off-campus research experiences. *University of Central Florida Office of Undergraduate Research*, [Student Blog](#).

Research Experience

2020 – Present **NSF Graduate Research Fellow**

2018 – 2020 **University of Florida Botany Research Assistantship**

University of Florida, Florida Museum of Natural History. Dr. Pamela S. Soltis and Dr. Douglas E. Soltis.

- 2015 – 2018 **Undergraduate Researcher**
University of Central Florida, Department of Biology. Dr. Eric A. Hoffman and Dr. Linda J. Walters.
- 2017 **NSF-funded Undergraduate Research Experience (REU)**
University of Missouri, Division of Biological Sciences. Dr. J. Chris Pires.
- 2017 **NSF-funded iDigBio Research Internship**
University of Florida, Florida Museum of Natural History. Dr. Pamela S. Soltis and Dr. Douglas E. Soltis.
- 2016 **NSF-funded Undergraduate Research Experience (REU)**
University of Colorado-Boulder, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology. Dr. Julianne Ng and Dr. Robert G. Laport.
- 2013 **Student Science Training Program Scholar**
University of Florida, IFAS Department of Agronomy. Dr. Kevin Kenworthy.

Grants (Total ~ \$16,876)

- 2022 Graduate Student Travel Award, Botanical Society of America. (\$500)
- 2022 John Paul Olowo Memorial Fund Research, University of Florida. (\$300)
- 2022 Graduate Student Council Travel Award, University of Florida. (\$350)
- 2022 Department of Natural History Spring 2022 Travel Award, University of Florida. (\$786)
- 2022 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Travel Award, University of Florida (\$300)
- 2021 Department of Natural History Summer 2021 Travel Award. (\$1000)
- 2021 Graduate Student Research Award, The Society of Systematic Biologists. (\$3000)
- 2021 Graduate Student Research Grant, American Society of Plant Taxonomist. (\$1200)
- 2021 Earl Core Student Research Award, Southern Appalachian Botanical Society. (\$1200)
- 2021 Carrie Lynn Yoder Memorial Scholarship, Department of Biology, University of Florida. (\$500)
- 2021 Mildred Mason Griffith Botany Grant, Department of Biology, University of Florida. (\$1000)
- 2020 International Association for Plant Taxonomy (IAPT) Research Award. (\$1,100)
- 2020 Society of Herbarium Curators Graduate Research Award. (\$500)
- 2020 Michael L. May Research Award, Department of Biology, University of Florida. (\$300)
- 2018, 19 American Society of Plant Taxonomists Travel Award for Botany 2018, 2019. (2x, \$670 total)
- 2018 Student Undergraduate Research Council Research Funding, University of Central Florida. (\$300)

- 2017 NSF-sponsored REU Travel Grant Program for Botany 2017. Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory. (\$1,000)
- 2017 The Botanical Society of America Undergraduate Student Research Award. (\$200)
- 2017 Undergraduate Travel Award for Botany 2017, Student Undergraduate Research Council, University of Central Florida. (\$300)
- 2016 Undergraduate Student Travel Award for Botany 2016, Office of Undergraduate Research, University of Central Florida. (\$300)
- 2016 Sigma-Xi Grant-in-Aid for Research. (\$1,000)
- 2016 Florida Undergraduate Research Conference Travel Grant, Office of Undergraduate Research, University of Central Florida. (\$70)
- 2016, 15 Undergraduate Research Grant, Office of Undergraduate Research, University of Central Florida. (2x, \$1,000 total)

Fellowships (Total ~\$117,600)

- 2019 – 24 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, National Science Foundation. (\$102,000)
- 2018 – 21 Grinter Fellowship Award, University of Florida. (\$6,000)
- 2016 – 18 Research and Mentoring Program (RAMP) Scholar, University of Central Florida. (\$5,600)
- 2016 – 17 Boeing Inc. Undergraduate Research Fellow, University of Central Florida. (\$2,000)
- 2016 NSF-funded Undergraduate Research Experience Fellow, University of Central Florida. (\$1,000)
- 2015 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellow, University of Central Florida. (\$1,000)

Honors and Awards

- 2020 Best Student Paper, *Journal of Systematics and Evolution*.
- 2019 Acclaimed Knight, University of Central Florida.
- 2018 Young Botanist Award, Botanical Society of America.
- 2018 Honorable Mention, Graduate Research Fellowship Program, National Science Foundation. *Awarded in 2019
- 2018 Life Science Judges' Choice Award. Showcase of Undergraduate Research Excellence, University of Central Florida.
- 2017 Winter Park Garden Club Scholarship. (\$1,500)
- 2017 Best Ecology Undergraduate Presentation. Botany 2017.
- 2017 1st Place Student Presenter Award. Eureka, University of Central Florida.
- 2017 2nd Place Undergraduate Award. *Plants Beyond Limits*, University of Central Florida.
- 2017 2nd Place Undergraduate Poster Award. *American Society of Plant Biologists Southern Sectional*.
- 2016 – 18 President's Honor Roll, University of Central Florida.
- 2016 Golden Opportunity Scholars with the American Agronomy Society, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America.
- 2016 Genetics Section Student Award. Botany 2016.

- 2014 – 18 Florida Bright Future Scholarship. (\$8,547)
 2014 EXCEL Program Scholar, University of Central Florida.

Presentations

**equally contributing authors, °mentored undergraduate*

Oral (Total = 16)

- 2022 **Gaynor ML**, Soltis DE, Soltis PS, Ponciano Castellanos JM. Formation, establishment, and persistence of autotetraploid populations. *Botany 2022*. Fairbanks, AK.
- 2021 **Gaynor ML**, Soltis DE, Soltis PS, Ponciano Castellanos JM. Modeling the dynamics of multiple origins and gene flow in autoployploids and their diploid progenitors. *Botany 2021*. Virtual.
- 2021 **Gaynor ML**. Introduction to R with Biodiversity Data. *Natural History Demo Camp*. Virtual.
- 2021 **Gaynor ML**, Soltis DE, Soltis PS, Ponciano Castellanos JM. Modeling the dynamics of multiple origins and gene flow in autoployploids and their diploid progenitors. *Polyploidy Seminar*. [Virtual](#).
- 2020 **Gaynor ML**, Fu C, Gao L, Lu L, Soltis DE, and Soltis PS. Biogeography and ecological niche evolution in Diapensiaceae inferred from phylogenetic analysis data. *Botany 2020*. Virtual.
- 2020 **Gaynor ML**, Soltis DE, and Soltis PS. Florida plants and climate change: scripts and pitfalls for utilizing digitized data in course-based undergraduate research. *4th Annual Digital Data Conference*. Virtual.
- 2019 **Gaynor ML**, Fu C, Gao L, Lu L, Soltis DE, and Soltis PS. Biogeography and ecological niche evolution in Diapensiaceae inferred from phylogenetic analysis data. *iDigBio Communication Luncheon*. Gainesville, FL. Invited.
- 2019 **Gaynor ML**, Lim-Hing S, and Mason CM. Genome duplication impact on secondary metabolite composition in non-cultivated species. *Botany 2019*. Tucson, AZ. Invited.
- 2018 **Gaynor ML**, Soltis DE, and Soltis PS. Phylogenetic patterns of ecological niche evolution in Diapensiaceae. *iDigBio Communication Luncheon*. Gainesville, FL. Invited.
- 2018 **Gaynor ML**, Walters LJ, and Hoffman EA. Assessing genetic diversity within natural populations of smooth cordgrass to promote effective restoration efforts. *Botany 2018*. Rochester, MN.
- 2017 **Gaynor ML**. Student scholarship recipient speaker. *University of Central Florida College of Science Scholarship Luncheon*. Orlando, FL. Invited.
- 2017 **Gaynor ML**, Walters LJ, and Hoffman EA. Assessing genetic diversity within natural populations of smooth cordgrass to promote effective restoration efforts. *2017 ASA, CSSA, and SSSA International Annual Meeting*. Tampa, FL.
- 2017 **Gaynor ML**, Laport RG, and Ng J. The influence of genome duplication on Brassicaceae and Rosaceae communities across the United States. *Botany 2017*. Fort Worth, TX. **Best Ecology Undergraduate Presentation. (\$100)**

- 2017 **Gaynor ML**, Walters LJ, and Hoffman EA. Assessing genetic diversity within natural populations of smooth cordgrass to promote effective restoration efforts. *Eureka*. University of Central Florida. Orlando, FL. **1st Place Student Presenter Award.**
- 2015 **Gaynor ML**, Walters LJ, and Hoffman EA. Assessing genetic diversity within natural populations of smooth cordgrass to ensure effective restoration efforts. *Summer Undergraduate Research Presentation*. University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.
- 2013 **Gaynor ML**, and Kenworthy KE. Rooting characteristics of elite Zoysiagrass genotypes. *Student Science Training Program Presentation*. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

Poster (Total = 19)

- 2019 **Gaynor ML**, Soltis DE, and Soltis PS. Phylogenetic patterns of ecological niche evolution in Diapensiaceae. *Botany 2019*. Tucson, AZ.
- 2019 **Gaynor ML**, Marchant DB, Soltis DE, and Soltis PS. Climatic niche comparison among ploidal levels in the classic autopolyploid system, *Galax urceolata* (Diapensiaceae). *International Polyploidy Conference*. Gent, Belgium.
- 2018 **Gaynor ML**, Marchant DB, Soltis DE, and Soltis PS. Climatic niche comparison among ploidal levels in the classic autopolyploid system, *Galax urceolata* (Diapensiaceae). *Science by the Shore*. St. Augustine, FL.
- 2018 **Gaynor ML**, Lim-Hing S, and Mason CM. Genome duplication impact on secondary metabolite composition in non-cultivated species. *Botany 2018*. Rochester, MN.
- 2018 **Gaynor ML**, Walters LJ, and Hoffman EA. Assessing genetic diversity within natural populations of smooth cordgrass to promote effective restoration efforts. *Showcase of Undergraduate Research Excellence*. University of Central Florida. Orlando, FL. **Life Science Judges' Choice Award. (\$500)**
- 2018 **Gaynor ML**, Walters LJ, and Hoffman EA. Assessing genetic diversity within natural populations of smooth cordgrass to promote effective restoration efforts. *Indian River Lagoon Symposium*. Florida Atlantic University's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute. Fort Pierce, FL.
- 2017 **Gaynor ML**, Walters LJ, and Hoffman EA. Assessing genetic diversity within natural populations of smooth cordgrass to promote effective restoration efforts. *Plants Beyond Limits*, University of Central Florida. Orlando, FL. **2nd Place Undergraduate Award. (\$200)**
- 2017 **Gaynor ML**, An H, and Pires JC. Unraveling the origins of allotetraploid *Brassica napus*. *University of Missouri Summer Research Forum*. Columbia, MO.
- 2017 **Gaynor ML**, Marchant DB, Soltis DE, and Soltis PS. Absence of clear niche divergence among ploidal levels in a classic autopolyploid system, *Galax urceolata*. *Botany 2017*. Fort Worth, TX.
- 2017 **Gaynor ML**, Walters LJ, and Hoffman EA. Assessing genetic diversity within natural populations of smooth cordgrass to promote effective restoration efforts.

- American Society of Plant Biologists Southern Sectional*. Orlando, FL. **2nd Place Undergraduate Poster Award. (\$70)**
- 2017 **Gaynor ML**, Walters LJ, and Hoffman EA. Assessing genetic diversity within natural populations of smooth cordgrass to promote effective restoration efforts. *Showcase of Undergraduate Research Excellence*. University of Central Florida. Orlando, FL.
- 2017 **Gaynor ML**, Walters LJ, and Hoffman EA. Assessing genetic diversity within natural populations of smooth cordgrass to promote effective restoration efforts. *Indian River Lagoon Symposium*. Florida Atlantic University's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute. Fort Pierce, FL.
- 2016 **Gaynor ML**, Laport RG, and Ng J. The influence of genome duplication on Brassicaceae and Rosaceae communities across the United States. *2016 ASA, CSSA, and SSSA International Annual Meeting*. Phoenix, AZ.
- 2016 **Gaynor ML**, Laport RG, and Ng J. The influence of genome duplication on Brassicaceae and Rosaceae communities across the United States. *Botany 2016*. Savannah, GA. **Genetics Section Student Award. (\$250)**
- 2016 **Gaynor ML**, Walters LJ, and Hoffman EA. Assessing genetic diversity within natural populations of smooth cordgrass to ensure effective restoration efforts. *Showcase of Undergraduate Research Excellence*. University of Central Florida. Orlando, FL.
- 2016 **Gaynor ML**, Walters LJ, and Hoffman EA. Assessing genetic diversity within natural populations of smooth cordgrass to ensure effective restoration efforts. *Southeastern Ecology and Evolution Conference*. Florida State University. Tallahassee, FL.
- 2016 **Gaynor ML**, Walters LJ, and Hoffman EA. Assessing genetic diversity within natural populations of smooth cordgrass to ensure effective restoration efforts. *Florida Undergraduate Research Conference*. University of Tampa. Tampa, FL.
- 2013 **Gaynor ML**, and Kenworthy KE. Rooting characteristics of elite Zoysiagrass genotypes. *Student Science Training Program Poster Showcase*. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

Co-author presentations (Total = 21)

- 2022 Landis J, **Gaynor ML**, Deanna R, O'Connor T, Nguyen K, Ng J, and Laport R. Using RAD capture sequences to investigate the origins of the American Amphitropical disjuncts *Larrea tridentata* and *Larrea divaricata*. Fairbanks, AK. Oral presentation.
- 2022 Abrahams RS, Mabry M, Caomhanach N, **Gaynor ML**, Pham K, Williams T, Murphy KA, Smocovitis VB, Soltis DE, and Soltis PS. Reckoning with the past for building an inclusive botany. *Botany 2022*. Fairbanks, AK. Oral presentation.
- 2022 DeLeon L ^{q*}, Mendez K ^{q*}, Mabry M, **Gaynor ML**, Soltis DE, and Soltis PS. Projected distributional shifts due to climate change for *Rhexia* (Melastomataceae). *Botany 2022*. Fairbanks, AK. Poster.
- 2022 Patten N ^o, **Gaynor ML**, Soltis DE, and Soltis PS. Geographic and taxonomic occurrence R-based scrubbing (gatoRs): An R package and reproducible

- workflow for processing biodiversity data. *UF Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium*. Gainesville, FL. Poster.
- 2022 Stolen E °, Shan S, **Gaynor ML**, Soltis DE, and Soltis PS. The impact of genome doubling on gene expression noise in *Arabidopsis thaliana*. *UF Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium*. Gainesville, FL. Poster.
- 2021 Patten N °, **Gaynor ML**, Soltis DE, and Soltis PS. Geographic and taxonomic occurrence R-based scrubbing (gatoRs): An R package and reproducible workflow for processing biodiversity data. *UF Fall Undergraduate Research Symposium*. Gainesville, FL. Poster.
- 2021 Stolen E °, Shan S, **Gaynor ML**, Soltis DE, and Soltis PS. The impact of genome doubling on gene expression noise in *Arabidopsis thaliana*. *UF Fall Undergraduate Research Symposium*. Gainesville, FL. Poster.
- 2021 Laport RG, Landis JB, **Gaynor ML**, O'Connor T, Deanna R, and Nguyen K. Using RAD capture sequences to investigate the origins of the American amphitropical Disjuncts *Larrea tridentata* and *Larrea divaricata*. *Botany 2021*. Virtual. Poster.
- 2021 Patten N °, **Gaynor ML**, Soltis DE, and Soltis PS. Reproducible Workflow for Projecting Climatic Impacts on Florida Plants. *UF Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium*. Virtual. Poster.
- 2021 Stolen E °, Shan S, **Gaynor ML**, Soltis DE, and Soltis PS. The impact of genome doubling on gene expression noise in *Arabidopsis thaliana*. *UF Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium*. Gainesville, FL. Poster.
- 2020 Andrade N*°, Chundi A*°, McMorro S*°, Patten N*°, Soltis DE, Soltis PS, and **Gaynor ML**. Florida plants and climate change. *UF Virtual Undergraduate Research Symposium*. Virtual. (<https://cur.aa.ufl.edu/2020/04/15/cure-florida-plants-and-climate-change/>) Poster.
- 2020 Depatie TH°, **Gaynor ML**, Soltis PS, Wetterer JK. Phylogeography of the burrowing four o'clock, *Okenia hypogaea* (Nyctaginaceae). *Wilkes Honors College Symposium for Scholarly and Creative Research*. Virtual. Poster.
- 2020 Depatie TH°, **Gaynor ML**, Soltis PS, Wetterer JK. Phylogeography of the burrowing four o'clock, *Okenia hypogaea* (Nyctaginaceae). *Florida Atlantic University Undergraduate Research Symposium*. Virtual. Poster.
- 2019 Pires JC, An H, Qi X, **Gaynor ML**, Hao Y, Mabry ME, Conant GC, and Barker MS. Transcriptome and organellar sequencing highlight the complex origin and diversification of allotetraploid *Brassica napus*. *Botany 2019*. Tucson, AZ. Oral presentation.
- 2019 Folk R, **Gaynor ML**, Soltis PS, Soltis DR, and Guralnick R. New prospects in studying hybridization: Assessing historical climatic drivers. *Botany 2019*. Tucson, AZ. Oral presentation.
- 2019 An H, Qi X, **Gaynor ML**, Hao Y, Gebken SC, Mabry ME, Conant GC, Barker MS, Fu T, Yi B, and Pires JC. The genetic structure and diversification process of allotetraploid *Brassica napus*. *Evolution 2019*. Providence, RI. Oral presentation.
- 2018 **Gaynor ML**, Laport RG, and Ng J. Waves or ripples? Whole genome duplication and plant community structure. *Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting*.

- New Orleans, LA. Oral presentation.
- 2018 An H, Qi X, **Gaynor ML**, Hao Y, Gebken SC, Mabry ME, Conant GC, Barker MS, Fu T, Yi B, and Pires JC. Transcriptome and organellar genome sequencing elucidate the origin and diversification of allotetraploid *Brassica napus*. *Brassica 2018*. Saint-Malo, France. Oral presentation.
- 2018 An H, **Gaynor ML**, Gebken SC, and Pires JC. Origin(s) of a hybrid: history of allopolyploid *Brassica napus* using genome-wide data. *Botany 2018*. Rochester, MN. Oral presentation.
- 2018 An H, **Gaynor ML**, Gebken SC, and Pires JC. Origin(s) of a hybrid: history of allopolyploid *Brassica napus* using genome-wide data. *Life Science Week*. University of Missouri, Columbia, MO. Oral presentation.

Synergistic Activities and Outreach

Freely available pipeline, tutorials, and teaching material: <https://github.com/mgaynor1>

- 2019 – Present Peer review for: *American Journal of Botany* (3), *Scientific Reports* (1), *Ecology and Evolution* (2), *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society* (1), *Frontiers in Plant Science* (1), *Journal of Evolutionary Biology* (1).
- 2022 Early Career Advisory Committee, American Journal of Botany.
- 2021 – 2023 Public Policy Committee, Botanical Society of America.
- 2021 – 2022 Graduate Student Colloquium Representative, University of Florida Department of Biology.
- 2020 – 2022 FLMNH Website Committee Graduate Student Representative.
- 2019 – 2021 iDigBio API Working Group.
Host biweekly drop-in sessions
Helped maintain github repository ([biodiversity-specimen-data](#))
- 2018 – Present iDigBio, University of Florida.
Participated in monthly meetings, assisted at the annual ADBC conference, and assisted in community outreach including:
WeDigBio at the Florida Museum of Natural History and Scientist in Every Florida School (SEFS).
- 2021 Graduate Student Mentor, Graduate Research Fellowship Working Group, Botanical Society of America.
- 2021 Fellowship Panelist for the American Society of Plant Biologist.
- 2019 – 2021 Student Representative, Botanical Society of America (BSA).
Organized workshops, Career in Botany Luncheon, annual Student Social/Networking event, CV/Resume coaching sessions, and #BSAcomm at the annual Botany meeting.
Responsible for articles in the Student Section of the *Plant Science Bulletin* three times a year.
Student newsletters throughout the year (at least three a year).
Example: [May Student Newsletter](#), [Spring Student Newsletter](#), [Fall Student Newsletter](#).

- 2020 Biological Collections in Ecology and Evolution Network (BCEENET): CURE Collaborating Developer.
Helped develop resources and material for Coursed-based Undergraduate Research Experience (CURE) utilizing natural history collections.
- 2020 Planting Science Mentor, Botanical Society of America.
- 2020 UF Biology Undergraduate Research Assistant Program Committee.
- 2019 – 2020 Volunteer for Society of Systematic Biologists 2020 standalone meeting.
Assisted in developing the meeting website (systbiol/ssb2020).
- 2018 – 2019 Girls Who Code, Eastside High School.
Instructor for local high school club, which meets once a week from Fall 2018 till the end of Fall 2019.
- 2018 Class Guest, University of Missouri to discuss NSF-REU opportunities.
- 2017 – 18 Botanical Society of the University of Central Florida.
Founding member and Vice President. Helped organize a plant symposium Fall 2017 and organized networking events.
- 2017 – 18 S.T.E.A.M., University of Central Florida.
Collaborated with a digital design student to create an art-based research poster to display at UCF and the Orlando Science Center.
- 2016 – 18 Student Undergraduate Research Council Member.
Devoted to exposing students to the different aspects of science and helping them pursue research positions at the University of Central Florida. Presented to classes and workshops on the benefits of being involved in undergraduate research
- 2015 – 17 Girls Exceling in Math and Science (GEMS), University of Central Florida.
Served as a mentor for eight freshmen women majoring in biology through the GEMS (Girls EXCELing in Math and Science) program.
- 2015 – 17 The Mad Scientist Research Society for undergraduate researchers, University of Central Florida.
Founding Member, Vice President (2015-16), and Director of Professional Development (2016-17). Led the Seedlings mentoring program.

Teaching

Assistant Instructor

- Spring 2020 BSC2930/BOT4935: Florida Plants and Climate Change
- Course-based Undergraduate Research Experience (CURE).
 - R-based scripts available: mgaynor1/CURE-FL-Plants

Teaching assistant

- Summer 2020 BSC4452 Computational Tools for Research in Biology
- Linux command line, bash scripting, version control, high-performance computing resources, python scripting, and SQL databasing.

Scientific Workshop Organization

2021	Co-instructor. Navigating the submission and peer review process. Botany 2021.
2021	Instructor. Using R for Digitized Natural History Collections (dNHC) in Research. BCEENET 2021 Virtual Meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mgaynor1/R4NaturalHistoryCollections-BCEENET2021
2017 – 22	Co-Instructor. Using Digitized Herbarium Data in Research: Applications for Ecology, Phylogenetics, and Biogeography. Botany 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop Material: soltislab/BotanyENMWorkshops
2020	Co-Instructor. Data Cleaning Basics for Natural History Collections. BCEENET.
2020	Co-organizer. Time management and career planning: long-term, short-term, and daily goals. Botany 2020. CANCELED.
2020	Co-Instructor. Using Digitized Herbarium Data in Research: Applications for Ecology, Phylogenetics, and Biogeography. Society of Systematic Biologists 2020.
2018	Instructor. Analytical Tools: Ecological Niche Modeling. ADBC Summit.

Mentoring

Undergraduate students:

2021 –	Karina Mendez and Lyana De Leon iDigBio Natural History Collections Summer Internship Project: Projected distributional shifts due to climate change for <i>Rhexia</i> (Melastomataceae).
2021 – 2022	Victoria Tesch iDigBio Natural History Collections Summer Internship Project: Comparing destructive and non-destructive stomata measurement techniques for the classic autopolyploid, <i>Galax urceolata</i> .
2021 –	Nico Andrade (UF)
2020 –	Natalie Patten (UF) Project: Reproducible workflow for projecting climatic impacts on Florida plants.
2020 –	Ethan Stolen – co-advised with Dr. Shengchen Shan (UF) Project: The Impact of genome doubling on gene expression noise in <i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i> .
2020 – 21	Max Gebhart – co-advised with Dr. Chase M. Mason (UCF) Project: Ecological niche evolution in <i>Helianthus</i> .
2020	Nico Andrade, Anand Chundi, Sarah McMorro, Natalie Patten. (UF) Project: Florida plants and climate change.
2019 – 20	Trinity H. Depatie – Visiting from Florida Atlantic University. Project: Phylogeography of the burrowing four-o'clock (<i>Okenia hypogaea</i>).

Currently a PhD student at the University of South Carolina with Dr. Carrie Wessinger
2019 – 20 Cullen Smith – co-advised with Dr. Norman Douglas (UF)

Open Educational Resources

Gaynor, M. (2020). Introduction to R with Biodiversity Data. Biodiversity Literacy in Undergraduate Education, QUBES Educational Resources. doi:10.25334/84FC-TE88

Gaynor, M. (2020). Cleaning Biodiversity Data: A Botanical Example Using Excel or RStudio. Biodiversity Literacy in Undergraduate Education, QUBES Educational Resources. doi:10.25334/DRGD-F069

Media Coverage

- 2021, "[Students return to the field with the aid of museum travel awards](#)", Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida.
- 2020, "[Bulking up: do plants make gains in secondary metabolites through genome duplication?](#)", Botany One.
- 2019, "[Florida Museum students awarded NSF graduate fellowships](#)", Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida.
- 2018, "[Research spotlight: Shelly Gaynor, Biology Major](#)", Research Week 2018, University of Central Florida.
- 2017, "[College of Science celebrates scholarships](#)", University of Central Florida.
- 2017, "[Student researches Roses and Cabbage](#)", University of Central Florida.
- 2017, "[Research experiences for undergraduates in digitized collections data](#)", iDigBio.
- 2017, "[Student's award-winning restoration research](#)", University of Central Florida.
- 2016, "[Biology student receives golden opportunity](#)", University of Central Florida.

Professional Affiliations

2020 – Present	Society of Systematic Biologists
2020 – Present	Society for the Study of Evolution
2020 – Present	Southern Appalachian Botanical Society
2020 – Present	Society of Herbarium Curators
2020 – Present	Torrey Botanical Society
2019 – Present	American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)
2017 – Present	American Society of Plant Taxonomist (ASPT)
2017 – Present	American Society of Plant Biologists Southern Section (ASPB)
2016 – Present	Botanical Society of America (BSA)
2016 – Present	Sigma Xi Associate Member