

Michelle L. Gaynor

MichelleGaynor@ufl.edu
mgaynor1.github.io

Education

Expected Ph.D., Botany 2018 – 2023
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL; Advisor: Dr. Pamela S. Soltis

B.S., Biology 2014 – 2018
University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL; Advisor: Dr. Eric A. Hoffman

Publications

**equally contributing authors*

4. **Gaynor ML**, Walters LJ, and Hoffman EA. Assessing genetic diversity within natural populations of smooth cordgrass to ensure effective restoration efforts. *Restoration Ecology*, *in press*.
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 preparation:

Gaynor ML*, Lim-Hing S*, and Mason CM. Genome duplication impact on secondary metabolite composition in non-cultivated species: A systematic meta-analysis. *In Review*.

Flemming AD, Belitz MW, **Gaynor ML**, Love K, Melton AE, Moran SM, Pirlo J, Randall Z, and Singer RA. Interdisciplinary uses of natural history data aggregation. *In prep*.

Non-peer reviewed publications:

Gaynor ML. 2019. Climatic Niche Modeling for Beetleweed (*Galax urceolata*, Diapensiaceae). [iDigBio Research Spotlight](#).

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

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

University of Florida Botany Research Assistantship Dr. Pamela S. Soltis and Dr. Douglas E. Soltis Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida	Aug. 2018 – Present
Undergraduate Researcher Dr. Eric A. Hoffman and Dr. Linda J. Walters Department of Biology, University of Central Florida Assessing genetic diversity within natural populations of smooth cordgrass to ensure effective restoration efforts.	Jan. 2015 – Aug. 2018
NSF-funded Undergraduate Research Experience (REU) Dr. J. Chris Pires Division of Biological Sciences, University of Missouri Unraveling the origins of allotetraploid <i>Brassica napus</i> .	May 2017 – Aug. 2017
iDigBio NSF-funded Research Internship Dr. Pamela S. Soltis and Dr. Douglas E. Soltis Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida Absence of niche divergence among ploidal levels in a classic autopolyploid system, <i>Galax urceolata</i> .	May 2017
NSF-funded Undergraduate Research Experience (REU) Dr. Julianne Ng and Dr. Robert G. Laport Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, University of Colorado-Boulder The influence of genome duplication on Brassicaceae and Rosaceae communities across the United States.	May 2016 – Aug. 2016
Research Assistant and Student Science Training Program Scholar Dr. Kevin Kenworthy IFAS Department of Agronomy, University of Florida Rooting characteristics of elite Zoysiagrass genotypes.	May 2013 – Aug. 2013

Grants (Total ~ \$4840)

2019	American Society of Plant Taxonomist Travel Award for Botany 2019. (\$335)
2018	American Society of Plant Taxonomist Travel Award for Botany 2018. (\$335)
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. (\$1000)
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. (\$1000)
2016	Florida Undergraduate Research Conference Travel Grant, Office of Undergraduate Research, University of Central Florida. (\$70)
2016	Undergraduate Research Grant, Office of Undergraduate Research, University of Central Florida. (\$500)
2015	Undergraduate Research Grant, Office of Undergraduate Research, University of Central Florida. (\$500)

Fellowships (Total ~\$117600)

2020 – 24	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, National Science Foundation. (\$102000)
2018 – 21	Grinter Fellowship Award, University of Florida. (\$6000)
2016 – 18	Research and Mentoring Program (RAMP) Scholar, University of Central Florida. (\$5600)
2016 – 17	Boeing Inc. Undergraduate Research Fellow, University of Central Florida. (\$2000)
2016	NSF-funded Undergraduate Research Experience Fellow, University of Central Florida. (\$1000)
2015	Summer Undergraduate Research Fellow, University of Central Florida. (\$1000)

Honors and Awards

2018	Young Botanist Award, Botanical Society of America.
2018	Honorable Mention, Graduate Research Fellowship Program, National Science Foundation.
2017	Winter Park Garden Club Scholarship. (\$1500)
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.
2014 – 18	Florida Bright Future Scholarship. (\$8547)

2014 EXCEL Program Scholar, University of Central Florida.

Presentations

Oral (Total = 8)

- 2019 **Gaynor ML**, Lim-Hing S, and Mason CM. Genome duplication impact on secondary metabolite composition in non-cultivated species. *Botany 2019*. Tucson, AZ.
- 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.
- 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 = 18)

- 2019 **Gaynor ML**, Soltis DE, and Soltis PS. 2019. Phylogenetic patterns of ecological niche evolution in Diapensiaceae. *Botany 2019*. Tucson, AZ.
- 2019 **Gaynor ML**, Marchant DB, Soltis DE, and Soltis PS. 2018. 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. 2018. 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 Biologist 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, 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 = 7)

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Synergistic Activities and Outreach

- 2019 – Present Peer review for: *Scientific Reports*.
- 2019 – 2021 Student Representative, Botanical Society of America (BSA).
- 2019 – 2020 Volunteer for Society of Systematic Biologist 2020 standalone meeting.
Assisted in developing SSB2020 website
(systbiol.github.io/ssb2020/).
- 2019 – Present Planting Science Mentor
- 2018 – Present iDigBio, University of Florida
Assisted at community outreach events including WeDigBio at the Florida Museum of Natural History
- 2018 – Present Girls Who Code, Eastside High School.
Instructor for local high school club, which meets once a week.
- 2018 Class Guest, University of Missouri
Guest in class to discuss NSF-REU opportunities with Makenzie Mabry.
- 2017 – 18 Botanical Society of the University of Central Florida
Founding member and Vice President. Aims to create a community for students interested in plant science at our university. Helped organize a plant symposium during 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 a 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 Excelling 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 for two years.
- 2015 – 17 The Mad Scientist Research Society, University of Central Florida.
Founding Member, Vice President (2015-16), and Director of Professional Development (2016-17). Aimed to create a community for undergraduate researchers at our university. Led the formation of the Seedlings mentoring program.

Professional Affiliations

- 2017 – Present American Society of Plant Taxonomist
- 2017 – Present American Society of Plant Biologist Southern Section

2016 – Present Botanical Society of America
2016 – Present Sigma Xi Associate Member

Scientific Workshop Organization

2018 ADBC Summit. iDigBio. Analytical Tools: Ecological Niche Modeling.
Instructor.
2017 - 19 Botany 2017, 2018, 2019. iDigBio - Using Digitized Herbarium Data in
Research: Applications for Ecology, Phylogenetics, and Biogeography.
Assistant instructor.

Media Coverage

- 2019, [Media coverage](#), Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida.
- 2018, [Research spotlight video](#), Research Week 2018, University of Central Florida.
- 2017, [Media coverage](#), University of Central Florida. “College of Science celebrates scholarships.”
- 2017, [Media coverage](#), University of Central Florida. “Student researches Roses and Cabbage.”
- 2017, [Media coverage](#), iDigBio. “Research experiences for undergraduates in digitized collections data.”
- 2017, [Media coverage](#), University of Central Florida. “Student’s award-winning restoration research.”
- 2016, [Media coverage](#), University of Central Florida. “Biology student receives golden opportunity.”

References

Dr. Pamela S. Soltis

Distinguished Professor and Curator
University of Florida, Florida Museum of Natural History
Phone: 352-273-1964
Email: psoltis@flmnh.ufl.edu

Dr. Douglas E. Soltis

Distinguished Professor
University of Florida, Florida Museum of Natural History and Department of Biology
Phone: 352-273-1963
Email: dsoltis@ufl.edu

Dr. Eric A. Hoffman

Associate Professor and Undergraduate Coordinator
University of Central Florida, Biology Department
Phone: 407-823-4007
E-mail: Eric.Hoffman@ucf.edu

Dr. Julianne Ng

Postdoctoral Researcher
University of Colorado Boulder, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Phone: 303-492-9668
E-mail: julienne.ng@colorado.edu

Dr. Robert G. Laport

Assistant Professor of Biology
Rhodes College, Department of Biology
Phone: 901-843-3558
Email: laportr@rhodes.edu

Aubrey Kuperman

Coordinator, Student Programs
University of Central Florida, Office of Undergraduate Research
Phone: 407-823-3125
Email: Aubrey.Kuperman@ucf.edu