

GEOFF ZAHN, PHD

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

Translational microbial ecology | Microbiomes and symbiosis



PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Current 2023	Associate Professor & Assoc. Dept. Chair Utah Valley University	📍 Orem, UT
2023 2017	Assistant Professor Utah Valley University	📍 Orem, UT
2017 2015	Postdoctoral Associate University of Hawai'i at Manoa	📍 Honolulu, HI

EDUCATION

2015	University of Arkansas Ph.D. in Biology	📍 Fayetteville, AR
2010	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)
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CONTACT INFO

✉ oliviafrary1@gmail.com

🌐 github.com/olivia-frary

🏠 olivia-frary.github.io

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](#)