

Grace Holly Westphal

King Life Sciences, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32304

Email: [REDACTED] Cell Phone: (847) 340-5606

Education

- 2022-Present Florida State University (Expected Graduation Date: Spring 2027)
Ph.D. Biology (Ecology and Evolution)
- 2018-2022 University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Class of 2022
B.S. *Cum laude*, Highest Distinction in Integrative Biology
Majors: Integrative Biology, English
Minor: Chemistry

Research Experience

- 2021-2022 Undergraduate Thesis Research (Carla Cáceres Laboratory)
“Partitioning variance in immune traits in a zooplankton host – fungal parasite system”
- Summer 2021 NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates (Carla Cáceres Laboratory)
Began initial data analysis for “Partitioning variance in immune traits in a zooplankton host – fungal parasite system,” conducted laboratory experiments aimed at understanding how exposure to predator kairomones impacted the susceptibility of different *Daphnia* genotypes to disease, and contributed to field work and zooplankton sample processing

Publications

- (1) **Westphal, G.** & T.E. Stewart Merrill. Partitioning variance in immune traits in a zooplankton host—fungal parasite system. In review: *Ecology and Evolution*.

Fellowships & Awards

- 2022 FSU Legacy Fellowship (distributed over 5 years) **\$50,000**
- 2021 National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates **\$3,000**
- 2021 Charles and Nadine Houston Award **\$1,000**
- 2020 PRA Health Sciences Global Scholarship Award **\$1,500**
- 2018 PRA Health Sciences Global Scholarship Award **\$2,000**

Honors

- Spring 2022 Undergraduate Research Certificate (Illinois Office of Undergraduate Research)
- 2019 – 2022 Integrative Biology Honors (UIUC)
- 2018 – 2022 James Scholar (UIUC, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences)

Professional Presentations

- Jan. 2023 The Society for Integrative & Comparative Biology, Austin, TX – Partitioning variance in immune traits in a zooplankton host—fungal parasite system. – Oral Presentation.
Pending acceptance.
- Apr. 28, 2022 University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Undergraduate Research Symposium, Urbana, IL – Partitioning variance in immune traits in a zooplankton host—fungal parasite system – Oral Presentation
- Apr. 7, 2022 School of Integrative Biology Distinction Symposium, Urbana, IL – Partitioning variance in immune traits in a zooplankton host—fungal parasite system – Oral Presentation
- Aug. 6, 2021 iBio Summer Symposium, Urbana, IL – The genetic basis of susceptibility and disease in a zooplankton parasite system – Oral Presentation

Teaching

Teaching Assistant (Biological Science II Laboratory) – August 2022-Present

Teach two laboratory sessions weekly; lecture students on scientific methodology, biostatistics, genetics, ecology, and evolution; evaluate student research papers and classwork; coordinate student-faculty interactions

Organic Chemistry Tutor (Instructor of Record: Dr. Jordan Axelson) – August 2020-Spring 2022

Supplement organic chemistry lectures with explanation and clarification for students seeking extra help; generate practice problems; provide personalized study techniques to enhance student success

Private Tutor – 2020-Spring 2022

Aided on an individual basis to students with a wide range of abilities in undergraduate Mathematics (Algebra, Precalculus, Statistics), English & Language Arts, Science (Biology, Geology), and general writing and organizational skills.

Leadership & Volunteer Work

Event and Recruitment Coordinator Honors Integrative Biology

Natural History Building, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign – August 2021-May 2022

Coordinate with Honors Integrative Biology faculty to plan and host recruitment and member events, create and orally present recruitment material relevant to prospective students

University of Illinois Leadership Seminars

Illinois Leadership Center – February 2021, November 2021

Attended the “Inclusion” and “Integrity” workshops that focused on leadership and maintaining personal values in a diverse workforce, participated in small group discussions about equity, equality, diversity, inclusion, and privilege

President/Founder/Senior Council

Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign – 2018-2020

Founded Registered Student Organization and elected president of team at University of Illinois.

Collaborated with a team to create, practice, and present discourse on ethical dilemmas at competitions, doubling the size of the team within one semester and increasing retention rate

Carle Hospital Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit, Volunteer

Carle Hospital, Urbana, IL – August-May 2019

Aided and supported families of patients in CVICU, organized and resupplied nurse serving stations, and delivered medications dispensed by the hospital pharmacy

Champaign County Humane Society, Volunteer

1911 E Main St, Urbana, IL 61802 – August-December 2018

Worked together with other volunteers to create a system in which each animal received care, assisted in training of the animals, facilitated meet-and-greets between prospective adopters and adoptees, and maintained a sanitary work environment