
Ellie A. Timmins

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EDUCATION

The Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA – *BS Biology*

August 2020 – May 2024

Cumulative GPA 3.90, Cum laude, Biology GPA 4.0, majored in Biology with ecology option.

Schreyer Honors College at Penn State

May 2021 – May 2024

Completed honors thesis; the impact of tree community diversity on arthropod community structure and herbivory rates under supervision of Dr. Carlo-Joglar.

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University – *PhD Biology*

August 2024 – PRESENT

Expected completion May 2029.

Publications

1. Kira E. Turnham, Matthew D. Aschaffenburg, D. Tye Pettay, David Paz Garcia Héctor Efraín Chávez-Romo, Héctor Reyes-Bonilla, **Ellie Timmins**, Robin T. Smith, Michael P. McGinley, Mark E. Warner, Todd C. LaJeunesse. (2023). Minimal trade-offs in physiological function for corals with thermally tolerant, host-adapted symbionts. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, <https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2023.1021>

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of North Carolina Botanical Gardens

May 2024 – August 2024

Conservation intern. Managed land, removed invasive species, maintained trails. Fire fighter Type 2 training. Led volunteer groups on invasive species removal.

The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Biology –

Undergraduate Researcher, Frugivory & Seed Dispersal Laboratory

August 2022 – May 2024

Researched arthropod community structure and herbivory rates in varying levels of plant diversity in Paranapanema, Brazil. Worked under Dr. Tomas Carlo studying bird population diversity and foraging behavior in urban settings and analyzed data using R and excel.

The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Biology –

Undergraduate Researcher, The Baums Laboratory

June 2022 – May 2023

Helped develop RNA extractions for Dr. Iliana Baums to investigate the effect that differing temperatures have on coral genetics during the coral bleaching process. This research sought to better understand the mechanisms behind coral bleaching.

The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Biology –

Undergraduate Researcher, Symbiosis Ecology & Evolution Laboratory

January 2022 – May 2022

Used Olympus BX61 microscope for histology work analyzing the fecundity of coral polyps with different thermally tolerant coral symbionts in Dr. Todd LaJeunesse's lab. Performed DNA extraction and gel electrophoresis.

Penn State Agronomy Farm, Department of Agriculture

Undergraduate Researcher, Penn State Weed Science

June 2021 – August 2021

Worked under Dr. John Wallace performing field work such as native Pennsylvania weed identification and crop biomass collection. Worked on experiments exploring the effects of herbicides and fertilizers, as well as more sustainable no-till practices. Performed outreach and education for local Pennsylvanian farmers.

The Pennsylvania State University, First Year Research Initiative –

Undergraduate Researcher

Researched trans-microRNA in parasitic *Cuscuta gronovii* haustoria with Dr. Michael Axell. Extracted RNA, qPCR, gel electrophoresis, and reverse transcription.

Study Abroad

Maasai Mara

December 2022 – January 2023

Studied elephant population age distribution and fecundity in the Serengeti ecosystem with Dr. Peter Hudson. Serengeti wildlife monitoring and outreach to local Maasai Mara tribe.

Costa Rica

December 2021 – January 2022

Studied tropical field ecology on the coast and in the rainforests of Costa Rica. Conducted group and independent projects investigating plant biophysics, wildlife monitoring, and the demographics of fish in coral reefs.

AWARDS

Dean's List (Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2024, Spring 2024)

The President's Freshman Award for academic excellence Fall 2020 and Spring 2021

Hammond Memorial-Science Fall 2023

Martarano Education Abroad Spring 2023

Schreyer International Study Spring 2022, Fall 2022

Schreyer Honors Special Project Spring 2023

REU Spring 2023

First Prize for the University Libraries Undergraduate Research Award: Excellence in Information Literacy Fall 2024

PRESENTATIONS

1. The Influence of Plant Neighborhood Diversity on Herbivory and Arthropod Communities in Successional Tropical Forests, Invited to Symposium at the Universidade Estadual Paulista in Rio Claro, May 2023; Penn State Undergraduate Exhibition, April 2024

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Symbiosis Ecology and Evolution Lab Education Outreach Event

July 2022

Presented in the local library to children ages 4+ on invertebrate zoology. Show and tell of marine organisms.

Penn State Outing Club– *Vice President (2023-Present)*

August 2021 – May 2024

On the officer board for a club of 500 members. Led volunteer trail maintenance. Organized and executed multiple hiking and backpacking trips. Designed and sold merchandise.

References

Kate Langwig

PhD Principal Investigator

Associate Professor

Virginia Tech

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Tomás Carlo-Joglar

Undergraduate Project Principal Investigator

Professor

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Peter Hudson

Professor

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