

Kelsey Jill Solomon
Odum School of Ecology
University of Georgia
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EDUCATION

- 2015 – Present **Doctorate of Philosophy, Ecology**, University of Georgia, Athens, GA
- Advisor: Dr. Catherine Pringle
 - Expected graduation date: May 2020
- 2007 – 2011 **B.Sc., Biology and History**, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL
- GPA: 4.0/4.0, Summa Cum Laude

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2015 – Present **Graduate Research Assistant**, University of Georgia, Athens, GA
- Investigating the effect of eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) mortality by the hemlock woolly adelgid on stream algal communities in the southern Appalachians
 - Assessing the effects of controlling an aggressive riparian shrub, *Rhododendron maximum*, on stream basal resources
 - Examining shifts in stream algal community structure as a result of time, urbanization, and climate change
 - Assists in the collection and processing of long term ecological data for the Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory in Macon County, NC
 - Supervises two undergraduate research assistants
- 2009 – 2011 **Undergraduate Research Assistant**, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL
- Advisor: Dr. Hank Heath
 - Purified plasmid samples, ran restriction digestions, and performed polymerase chain reactions to aid in research
 - Gained familiarity with bacterial gene structure

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2014 – 2015 **Biology Teacher**, Lighthouse College Preparatory Academy, Gary, IN

- Designed rigorous 9th grade biology curriculum, resulting in an overall average of 84.4% mastery of Indiana state-level standards
- Developed hands-on laboratory activities to foster development of students' critical thinking skills
- Prepared and presents daily lectures and lessons
- Graded daily assignments, assessments, projects, and laboratory activities
- Planned and led teacher professional development sessions
- Sponsored and ran weekly meetings for the Key Club, a community-based service organization

2013 – 2014 **Integrated Chemistry and Physics Teacher**, Lighthouse College Preparatory Academy, Gary, IN

- Designed 8th grade chemistry and physics curriculum, resulting in an overall average of 82.9% mastery of Indiana state-level standards
- Developed hands-on laboratory activities to foster development of students' critical thinking skills
- Analyzed data on student growth to inform individualized instruction for diverse learners
- Collaborated with colleagues to create interdisciplinary unit plans

2011 – 2013 **Secondary Science Teacher and Corps Member**, Teach for America/ LEAD College Preparatory Charter School, Gary, IN

- Selected as one of 5,300 accepted candidates out of 45,000 applicants (12% acceptance rate) to serve in a national service corps committed to teaching in under-resourced communities and becoming life-long leaders to expand opportunities for all children
- Designed science curricula for grades 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 (biology), resulting in an overall average of 79.8% mastery of Indiana state-level standards
- Organized school's first and second-annual science fairs, leading 120 students to create and perform individualized scientific experiments
- Established and coached 15-member middle-school cheerleading squad

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Solomon, K. J., Bixby, R. J., and Pringle, C. M. Examining potential changes in stream algal communities in the southern Appalachians, pre- and post- hemlock die-off. Society for Freshwater Science Annual Meeting, Raleigh, NC. June 4-9 2017. Poster presentation.

GRANTS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

2017 **Odum School of Ecology Small Grant**

- Grant written to assist funding for graduate research project (\$640 awarded)

- 2015 **Graduate Research Assistantship**
- Awarded by the Graduate School at the University of Georgia
- 2011 **Arts & Sciences Distinguished Undergraduate Scholar**
- Awarded in recognition of the highest undergraduate GPA in the College of Arts & Sciences by The University of Alabama
- 2011 **Charles Grayson Summersell Memorial Scholarship**
- Awarded in recognition of academic merit to a junior or senior majoring in history by the History Department at the University of Alabama
- 2010 **William Ray Moore Physical Science Scholarship**
- Awarded in recognition of academic merit to student majoring in the physical sciences by the College of Arts & Sciences at the University of Alabama
- 2010 **Phi Beta Kappa**
- 2007 **Capstone Scholarship**
- 2007 **Col. Joe and Claire Shephard Endowed Scholarship**

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society for Freshwater Science

ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

- 2016 – Present **President**, EcoReach, University of Georgia, Athens, GA
- Coordinates outreach events and volunteers aimed at heightening awareness of ecology and the environment in K-12 students of Athens-Clarke County
 - Communicates with local teachers, community members, and librarians to plan outreach events
 - Creates lesson plans and materials for outreach activities
 - Planned 15 outreach events reaching over 450 Athens-area students during the 2016-2017 academic year
 - Expanded volunteer membership from 13 to 61 active members during the 2016-2017 academic year
- 2016 – Present **Outreach Coordinator**, Women in Science (WiSci), University of Georgia, Athens, GA
- Coordinates outreach events and volunteers aimed at increasing representation of women in STEM fields
 - Planned 6 outreach events reaching over 120 Georgia students during the 2016-2017 academic year

- 2016 – Present **Mentor**, Clarke County Mentoring Program, Athens, GA
- Visits local high school once per week to mentor 9th grad student
- 2016 – 2017 **Graduate Student Research Symposium Coordinator**, Odum School of Ecology, University of Georgia, Athens, GA
- 2011 – 2015 **Tutor**, Gary, IN
- Tutored students in 5th – 9th grade in fields of sciences and mathematic
- 2008 – 2010 **Student Leader**, Honors College Mentoring Program, Tuscaloosa, AL
- Led 5-6 students and their college mentors as classroom teacher to improve students' math and reading performances
 - Developed weekly after-school math lesson plans used by 7 student leaders, reaching 30 students
 - Volunteered in local elementary school's after-school program for three to six hours weekly