

## Brittney Anne Ferrari

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### EDUCATION

- University of Georgia, Athens, GA** **2023**  
 Ph.D., Science Education  
 Dissertation Advisor: Julie Kittleson  
 Dissertation: “Peer learning assistants facilitate student learning and engagement through interactive discourse”
- University of Georgia, Athens, GA** **2016**  
 M.S., Forest Resources  
 Thesis: “Examination of the population genetic structure of Canada warblers (*Cardellina canadensis*) across their geographic range”
- University of North Carolina Wilmington, Wilmington, NC** **2013**  
 B.S. with Honors, Biology  
 Thesis: “Quantifying the genetic structure and variability of Chilean Flamingos (*Phoenicopterus chilensis*) using ancient DNA”

### TEACHING AND MENTORING

#### Summary of Teaching Philosophy

I use evidence-based pedagogy to create active learning environments, in which students collaboratively learn science by engaging in authentic science practices. My classroom represents an inclusive community of learners where students feel empowered to share ideas, ask questions, and reflect on their thinking. Teachers learn alongside their students, and therefore, I am responsive to my students’ interests and feedback in my classroom.

#### Courses Taught

- Instructor of Record, Principles of Biology II Lab** **2014 - 2015, 2020 - 2022**  
*University of Georgia, Biological Sciences*
- Teaching Intern, Honors Evolutionary Biology** **Fall 2021**  
*University of Georgia, Genetics*
- Instructor of Record, Concepts in Biology (E)** **Summer 2020**  
*University of Georgia, Biological Sciences*
- Teaching Assistant, Principles of Biology II Honors Lecture** **Spring 2020**  
*University of Georgia, Biological Sciences*

#### Mentoring Experience

- REU Research Mentor** (National Science Foundation DUE Award #1950528) **Summer 2020**  
*University of Georgia, Undergraduate Biology Education Research*
- Volunteer Mentor for Undergraduate Teaching Interns** **2017 - 2018**  
*University of Georgia, Biological Sciences*

### Facilitated Workshops

**Governor's Teaching Fellows – Summer Institute on Scientific Teaching.** (May 2023). Institute of Higher Education, University of Georgia.

**Teaching to Question: Building a Classroom Culture Grounded in Metacognition.** (April 2023). Biology Education Research Group Seminar, University of Georgia.

**Conferencing with Students: A Writing Center Workshop.** (October 2022). Graduate Student Teaching Seminar, University of Georgia.

**Introduction to Educational Research.** (May 2022). Undergraduate Biology Educational Research Professional Development Workshop, University of Georgia.

### Professional Development

**Faculty Learning Community – Teaching TAs to TA.** (September 2023 – present). Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Georgia.

**Workshop – Supporting Student Success.** (September 2023). Learning and Development, University of Georgia.

**Workshop – Mentoring Students.** (October 2023). Learning and Development, University of Georgia.

**Workshop – Strategies and Tools for Aligning Expectations of Graduate Mentor and Mentee.** (October 2023). Learning and Development, University of Georgia.

**Workshop – Navigating Conflict.** (December 2023). Learning and Development, University of Georgia.

## RESEARCH

### Summary of Research Interests

College science teaching; Biology education; Peer learning; Metacognition; Active learning strategies; Professional development; Qualitative inquiry

### Research Experience

**Graduate Research Assistant** **2023**

*University of Georgia, Departmental and Leadership Teams for Action*

- Collaborate with research team to plan and organize professional development workshops for faculty engaged in transforming teaching evaluation to improve student learning in STEM

**Doctoral Researcher** **2018 - 2023**

*University of Georgia, Science Education and Biological Sciences*

- Design and execute qualitative study to investigate how Peer Learning Assistants facilitate student learning and collaborative discourse in introductory college science courses

**Graduate Research Assistant** **2014 - 2016**

*University of Georgia, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources*

- Conducted molecular biology research to quantify the genetic structure and variability of Canada warblers across their geographic breeding range

### Peer-Reviewed Publications

**Ferrari, B.**, LaBonte, P., & Kittleson, J. (accepted, in press). It's personal and pedagogical: Peer learning assistants use multiple strategies to support student learning in college biology courses. *Journal of College Science Teaching*.

Toledo, W., Flint, M., Sharkey, C., McCollum, S., Cottrell, A., **Ferrari, B.**, Paseda, O., Mitchell, N. (2023). Building Community Through Feminist Collectivity: Being and Becoming Women in Academia. *Gender and Education*, 35(4), 365-383.

**Ferrari, B.**, Dees, J., Armstrong, N., & Kittleson, J. (2023). Exploring peer learning assistants' impact on student performance and perceptions in an undergraduate biology course. *Journal of College Science Teaching*, 52(6), 26-33.

**Ferrari, B. A.**, Shamblin, B. M., Chandler, R. B., Tumas, H. R., Hache, S., Reitsma, L. & Nairn, C. J. (2018). Canada Warbler (*Cardellina canadensis*): novel molecular markers and a preliminary analysis of genetic diversity and structure. *Avian Conservation and Ecology*, 13(1):1-8.

Torres, C. R., Ogawa, L. M., Gillingham, M.A.F., **Ferrari, B. A.**, & van Tuinen, M. (2014). A multi-locus inference of the evolutionary diversification of extant flamingos (*Phoenicopteridae*). *BMC Evolutionary Biology*, 14(36): 1-9.

### Peer-Reviewed Conference Presentations

**Ferrari, B.**, Kurbatova, M., & Kittleson, J. Learning from Peers: Patterns of Talk and Metacognition in a Peer Learning Assistant-supported Biology Course. *National Association of Research in Science Teaching Annual International Conference*. Chicago, IL. April 2023.

Toledo, W., Flint, M., Sharkey, C., McCollum, S., Cottrell, A., **Ferrari, B.**, Paseda, O., & Mitchell, N. Building Community Through Feminist Collectivity: Being and Becoming Women in Academia. *American Educational Research Association International Research Conference*. Virtual. April 2022.

**Ferrari, B.**, LaBonte, P., & Kittleson, J. Exploring the role of peer learning assistants in supporting student learning in college biology courses. *National Association of Research in Science Teaching Annual International Conference*. Virtual. April 2021.

**Ferrari, B.**, Dees, J., Armstrong, N., Miller, K., & Kittleson, J. Exploring peer learning assistants' impact on student performance and perceptions in an undergraduate biology course. *National Association of Research in Science Teaching International Conference*. Portland, OR. March 2020.

**Ferrari, B.** Evaluation of peer tutoring using students' assessment of learning outcomes. *Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Commons Conference*. Savannah, GA. May 2016. Poster Presentation.

**Ferrari, B.** Population genetics of the Canada warbler (*Cardellina canadensis*). *The Wildlife Society Annual Regional Meeting*. Athens, GA. September 2015.

### RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### Instructional Lab Coordinator

present

University of Georgia, Odum School of Ecology

- Coordinate ecology undergraduate lab courses, including revising curricula, supervising 17 TAs, leading weekly prep meetings, responding to student inquiries and managing student lab concerns.

- Graduate Research Assistant** **2023**  
*University of Georgia, Developmental and Leadership Teams for Action*  
  - Collaborate with research team to plan and organize professional development workshops for faculty engaged in transforming teaching evaluation to improve student learning in STEM.
- Writing Consultant** **2022**  
*University of Georgia, Writing Center*  
  - Provided oral and written feedback to students on course assignments and professional documents
- Graduate Program Assistant** **2021, 2022**  
*University of Georgia, Undergraduate Biology Education Research*  
  - Organized and managed fellowship program for undergraduate students including recruitment, onboarding, and scheduling of weekly activities and workshops.
- Teaching Laboratory Manager** **2016 - 2020**  
*University of Georgia, Biological Sciences*  
  - Coordinated with faculty, staff, and graduate student instructors to manage introductory biology lab program by creating instructional resources, fostering teaching skills, and revising curriculum.
- Supplemental Instruction Assistant Coordinator** **2014**  
*University of North Carolina Wilmington, Student Affairs*  
  - Assisted in designing professional development and tutor training for peer tutors; observed and evaluated peer tutors and provide constructive feedback on their teaching.

## GRANTS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

- Dean's Award** **2023**
- Outstanding Teaching Assistant** **2021**
- Georgia Ornithological Society Bill Terrell Graduate Research Grant (\$5,400)** **2016**
- Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Mini Grant (\$500)** **2015**

## SERVICE

- Journal Reviewer** **2022**  
 International Journal of STEM Education: Innovations and Research
- Warnell Graduate Student Association Leader** **2015 - 2016**  
 Student Awards Committee Chair  
 Teaching Effectiveness Committee Graduate Student Liason
- UGA Biology Graduate Student Instructors** **2016**  
 Volunteer Science Instructor at Clarke Middle School by providing hands-on experience and active learning opportunities for 7<sup>th</sup> grade science students

## CERTIFICATION

- Certificate in Interdisciplinary Qualitative Studies 2023
- Certificate in Diversity and Inclusion 2023
- Certificate in Academic Advising 2019
- Interdisciplinary Certificate in University Teaching 2016
- College Reading and Learning Association Master Tutor Certificate 2013

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

### **National Societies**

National Association for Research in Science Teaching  
Society for Advancement in Biological Education Research  
The Wildlife Society  
Xi Sigma Pi National Forestry Honors Society

### **Regional and Local Societies**

Scientists Engaged in Educational Research, UGA  
Biology Education Research Group, UGA  
Georgia Ornithological Society