

Brittney Anne Ferrari

Academic Professional Associate – Odum School of Ecology
(267)-261-1329 | baferrari@uga.edu

EDUCATION

- University of Georgia, Athens, GA** **2023**
 Ph.D., Science Education
 Dissertation Advisor: Dr. 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

- University Teaching in Ecology** **Fall 2024**
University of Georgia, Odum School of Ecology
- Ecology Lab** **2023 – present**
University of Georgia, Odum School of Ecology
- Ecological Basis of Environmental Issues Lab** **2023 – present**
University of Georgia, Odum School of Ecology
- 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)
University of Georgia, Undergraduate Biology Education Research

Summer 2020

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

Workshop – Generative AI & Teaching. (August 2024). Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Georgia.

Workshop – Supervision and Burnout: How Supervisors Can Help Their Teams in Times of Stress. (March 2024). Learning and Development, University of Georgia.

Workshop – Active Learning Summit. (February 2024). Office of Active Learning, University of Georgia.

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. (2024). It's personal and pedagogical: Peer learning assistants use multiple strategies to support student learning in college biology courses. *Journal of College Science Teaching*, 53(6), 546-553.

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 two ecology undergraduate lab courses, including revising and developing new curricula, supervising and mentoring 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.

SERVICE

EcoReach Faculty Advisor **2024 - present**

University of Georgia, Odum School of Ecology

Graduate Student Symposium Presentation Judge **2024**

University of Georgia, Odum School of Ecology

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 7th grade science students

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****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