

Darla G. French

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy

Purdue University

Interdisciplinary Life Sciences/Forestry & Natural Resources

Dissertation: Metabolomic and Transcriptomic Profiling of Asian and North American Ash Trees. Major Professor: Dr. Richard Meilan

August 2012

West Lafayette, IN

Master of Science in Education

Purdue University

Curriculum & Instruction / Youth Development & Agricultural Education

Thesis: Scientific Inquiry in Pre-Service Agricultural Education Teacher Education. Advisor: Dr. Mark Balschweid

August 2005

West Lafayette, IN

Bachelor of Arts

College of Wooster

Biological Sciences

Cum Laude, Departmental Honors, Phi Beta Kappa, Beta Beta Beta Honor Society

Senior Thesis: A Study to Determine the Effects of Light, Temperature, and Developmental Stage on Cyanidin 3-glucoside Accumulation in Fresh Leaves of Four Genotypes of Lettuce (*Lactuca sativa*). Advisors: Dr. Matt Kleinhenz, Ohio Agricultural Research & Development Center / Ohio State University and Dr. William Morgan, College of Wooster

May 2002

Wooster, OH

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Laboratory Coordinator / Lecturer, Biology Department, Oberlin College (OH), 8/2023-present.

Responsible for direct student-contact teaching in laboratories associated with introductory-level department courses for biology, neuroscience, and environmental studies majors; developing/delivering curriculum in laboratory and lecture settings, including course handouts & lectures; utilizing campus LMS system (currently Blackboard); developing/grading assignments & assessments; addressing student questions/concerns; editing student work and providing consistent, timely feedback; developing online course support; supervising, training, and managing faculty instructors and undergraduate teaching assistants; preparing course materials for weekly lab and field activities.

As part of this role, I developed new curricula for the courses listed below:

Laboratory courses: **Genetics, Ecology, and Evolution** (CURE-style course); **Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, and Biochemistry** (CURE-style course).

Professor, Department of Biology, University of Pikeville (KY), 8/2021-5/2023.

Associate Professor, Department of Biology, University of Pikeville (KY), 8/2017-8/2021.

Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, University of Pikeville (KY), 8/2013-7/2017.

Instructor, Department of Biology, University of Pikeville (KY), 8/2012-7/2013.

Responsible for direct student-contact teaching of all levels of undergraduate student courses (both traditional and non-traditional) for biology majors and non-majors; developing/delivering curriculum, including course handouts & lectures; utilizing campus LMS system (Canvas, formerly Moodle); developing/grading assignments & assessments; advising over 40 biology majors per semester; addressing student questions/concerns; editing student work and providing consistent, timely feedback; leading seminar discussion sessions; developing online course instruction; organizing and supervising local, regional, and international field trips; supervising Principles lab instructor.

As part of this role, I developed new curricula for the courses listed below:

Laboratory courses: **Principles of Biology I and II** (majors general biology); **Botany** (both traditional and inquiry-based approaches); **Genetics**; **Biology for Future Educators** (elementary education majors); **Introductory Biology** (non-majors); **You and Your Environment** (non-majors).

Lecture courses: **Medical Terminology** (online), **Advanced Medical Terminology** (online), **Nature of Science, Religion & Science, Religion & Nature**.

Seminar / special topics courses: **Restoration Ecology**; **Bioethics**; **Evolution of Consciousness**; **Gut Microbiology**; **Invasive Species**; **Philosophy of Science**.

Study abroad courses: **Introduction to Ornithology** (Coastal Southeastern United States, 2015; Gulf Coast, 2017; Florida, 2019); **Natural History of Belize** (2013, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2022).

Cross-curricular courses: **First-Year Studies**; **Teaching Biology in the High School** (methods for pre-service teachers); **Belly Dance Basics**; **Intermediate Belly Dance**; **Belly Dance Performance**; **Self-Defense for Women**.

Teaching Assistant / Curriculum Implementer, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, Purdue University (West Lafayette, IN), 2007-2010.

Responsible for direct student-contact teaching of upper-level undergraduate outdoor laboratory sessions; grading exams, quizzes, and written laboratory assignments; developing grading rubrics; addressing student questions and concerns; and leading laboratory and lecture sessions, both field-based and lab-based. Held office hours. Involved in courses listed below:

Conservation Biology II: Invasive Species – Dr. John Dunning, Fall 2010 (*also instructor of record, in partial fulfillment of GAANN Fellowship)
Forest Ecosystems – Dr. Michael Jenkins, Fall 2008 and Fall 2009
Forest Ecosystems – Dr. Andriy Zhalnin, Fall 2007

Teaching Assistant / Curriculum Developer, Biology Laboratory Outreach, Department of Biological Sciences, Purdue University (West Lafayette, IN), 2002-2004. Dr. Susan Karcher, Department of Biological Sciences.

Organized community outreach program in which undergraduate students wrote lessons for local elementary students and taught them, then submit lessons for publication in national education journals. Guided and critiqued undergraduate work. Communicated with local elementary school teachers. Edited lesson drafts for journal submission. Presentation of projects at regional conferences.

Student Teacher / Curriculum Developer, Supervised Teaching of Agricultural Education Program, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Purdue University (West Lafayette, IN), Feb-May 2004. Dan Gottschalk, Purdue University Supervisor, and Lynnette Markley, Warsaw Community High School Cooperating Teacher.

Responsible for direct student-contact teaching of 80 high school agricultural education students, grades 9-12, at Warsaw Community High School (Warsaw, IN). Taught introductory agriculture, horticulture,

natural resources, and agribusiness courses; developed original lesson plans for all courses. Supervised FFA activities, including field trips, career development events, and banquets.

Teaching Assistant / Curriculum Implementer, Department of Biological Sciences, Purdue University (West Lafayette, IN), 2002-2003.

Responsible for direct student-contact teaching of freshman-and sophomore-level laboratory sessions; demonstrating techniques and assisting students in everyday laboratory routines; writing/grading assessments and exams; administering practicals; grading laboratory notebooks and library assignments; addressing student questions and concerns; and leading laboratory and review sessions; holding office hours. Involved in courses listed below:

Laboratory in Biology II: Practical Skills in Biological Sciences – Dr. Laurie Iten, Fall 2003

Laboratory in Biology III: Cell Structure and Function – Dr. John Anderson, Fall 2002

Laboratory in Biology IV: Genetics and Molecular Biology – Dr. Susan Karcher, Spring 2003

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Pedagogical Research, Department of Biology, Oberlin College, 8/2023-present.

Incorporation of Course-Based Undergraduate Research Experience models in laboratory courses, as well as non-cognitive and high-impact practices, writing-intensive assignments, active learning, and experiential learning projects into science courses for majors and non-majors. Science pedagogy and the nature of science as perceived by students are particular interests. Scholarship shared through professional development activities.

Pedagogical Research, Department of Biology, University of Pikeville, 8/2012-5/2023.

Incorporation of non-cognitive and high-impact practices, writing-intensive assignments, flipped classroom model, active learning, and experiential learning projects into science courses for majors and non-majors. Science pedagogy and the nature of science as perceived by students were particular interests. Scholarship shared through professional development activities.

Dissertation Research, Molecular Tree Physiology Lab, Department of Forestry & Natural Resources, Purdue University, 6/2006-7/2012.

Characterized transcriptomes and metabolomes of Asian and North American ash trees (genus *Fraxinus*). Learned biochemical analysis protocols for HPLC-UV and GC-MS, as well as molecular biology protocols for identifying a biomarker and doing qRT-PCR analysis and 454 sequencing. Grew all research material from seed. Maintained field and greenhouse populations of ash trees. In a side project, analyzed auxin content of a colleague's samples from mutant poplar lines; learned extraction, purification, and derivatization protocols, as well as how to run the gas chromatograph/mass spectrometer (GC/MS) and analyze GC/MS output. Was involved in generating feedback relating to forestry biofuels projects run by other lab members. Learned basic tissue culture principles as applied to forest molecular biology research.

Graduate Research Assistant, PULSe Interdisciplinary Life Sciences Program, Purdue University, 8/2005-8/2006.

Completed rotations with PULSe faculty members. Assisted faculty members, post-docs, and other graduate students in standard laboratory techniques such as DNA gel electrophoresis, polymerase chain reaction, DNA extraction, two-dimensional separation of proteins, DNA sequencing, karyotyping, and fluorescent *in situ* hybridization. Dr. Rick Meilan, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources; Dr. Peter Goldsbrough, Department of Horticulture & Landscape Architecture; Dr. Cliff Weil, Department of Agronomy; and Dr. Jeff Stuart, Department of Entomology.

Master's Research, Purdue University, Department of Curriculum and Instruction (West Lafayette, IN), 1/2004-8/2005.

Identified scientific inquiry as an important component of agriscience. Identified survey population regarding this issue. Developed and administered survey instrument. Analyzed responses. Dr. Mark Balschweid, Department of Youth Development & Agricultural Education.

Graduate Research Assistant / Curriculum Developer, Department of Biological Sciences, Purdue University, 5/2005-8/2005.

Assisted in developing teaching/learning digital content for use in self-paced first year biology core laboratory modules. Scripted and storyboarded new computer tutorials. Revised manuals for current first year biology core laboratory modules. Dr. Laurie Iten, Department of Biological Sciences.

Graduate Research Assistant / Curriculum Developer, Department of Youth Development & Agricultural Education, Purdue University, 10/2004-5/2005.

Assisted in developing new curriculum and online tutorials to teach genomics concepts to secondary education science students using the apple as a model system. Designed accompanying lesson plans. Final product viewable at: http://www.four-h.purdue.edu/apple_genomics/. Dr. Kathryn Orvis, Departments of Youth Development & Agricultural Education and Horticulture & Landscape Architecture, and Dr. Peter Goldsbrough, Department of Horticulture & Landscape Architecture.

Summer Research Assistant, Genetics Laboratory, Department of Agronomy, Purdue University, 5/2004-8/2004.

Assisted in maintenance and upkeep of corn genetics research plots. Assisted in pollinating individual corn plants. Acted as field crew morale officer. Dr. Clifford Weil, Department of Agronomy.

Graduate Research Assistant / Curriculum Developer, Department of Biological Sciences, Purdue University, 6/2003-8/2003.

Assisted in developing new curriculum for freshman-level majors' laboratory course. Vetted new experiments and produced detailed protocols for new exercises. Dr. Laurie Iten, Department of Biological Sciences.

Undergraduate Research Assistant, Ohio Agricultural Research & Development Center/Ohio State University (OARDC/OSU), Muck Crops Branch (Celeryville, OH), 6/2002-8/2002.

Assisted in planning, implementation, maintenance, and upkeep of vegetable crop research plots. Acted as liaison between Ohio vegetable farmers and research scientists. Rick Callendar, Muck Crops Branch Manager.

Undergraduate Research Assistant, Vegetable Physiology Laboratory, Horticulture and Crop Science Department, OARDC/OSU (Wooster, OH), 5/2000-5/2002.

Assisted in planning and implementation of vegetable crop research plots. Collected and organized data from research plots. Acted as liaison between branch managers and supervising research scientist. Dr. Matt Kleinhenz, Department of Horticulture and Crop Science.

ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Advanced Placement Biology Exam National Leadership Team, College Board (<https://www.collegeboard.org/>) and Educational Testing Service (<https://www.ets.org/>), 2/2016-present.

Anticipated June 2026: I will be serving as an Exam Leader on one of the forms of the 2026 AP Biology Exam. Previously I have served as a Question Leader for five years (2021-2025), and as an Early Table Leader (2020), an Early Reader (2019), and a general Reader (2016-2018) in the years prior to that. Duties include evaluating samples of AP biology student performance on Free-Response Question (FRQ) essays; developing and administering training to apply standardized rubrics; and working with scoring team and higher leadership to modify rubrics as necessary. Most recently, serving as a Question Leader (2025) required developing a precise scoring rubric for an assigned FRQ on the secure international form of the AP Biology exam; facilitating the Early Table Leader team to identify and

annotate benchmark and training sample papers for the FRQ; and subsequently coordinating / planning / executing training for 20 additional Readers to score 18,000 student FRQ responses. Additionally, completing special projects as an assistant to assigned Exam Leader(s) and completing extended and late scoring duties as assigned. Current Chief Reader for Biology: Jay Mager, Ohio Northern University. Formerly Amy Dykstra, Bethel University (2020-2024) and Nancy Morvillo, Florida Southern College (2016-2019).

Independent Contract Editor, American Journal Experts (Durham, NC), 7/2022-present and 11/2017-9/2018.

Helping researchers successfully communicate their work by providing author-oriented solutions to overcome the barriers to the typical manuscript preparation process. Working in conjunction with a team of human and AI editors to provide timely feedback and suggested edits to manuscripts. Using Word's Track Changes functionality. Supervisor: AJE Contractor Recruitment Team.

Middle Eastern Dance Instructor, University of Pikeville School of Dance (www.ranakalila.com), 1/2013-5/2023.

Developing the Middle Eastern dance program, which did not exist before I moved there. Teaching Middle Eastern dance techniques, history, and choreography to beginners and intermediates. Developing new choreographies. Supervising participation in the annual International Shimmy Mob fundraising and performance activity. Providing group and private lessons on a weekly basis. Assisting with studio performances (biannual fall Dance for a Cure show, biannual Nutcracker performance, annual spring recital). Organizing and supervising troupe performances at local venues. Dance studio coordinator: Conda Little, University of Pikeville School of Dance.

Writing Assignment Consultant, Laboratory in Biology IV: Genetics and Molecular Biology, Department of Biological Sciences, Purdue University (West Lafayette, IN), 1/2012-5/2012.

Developing rubrics and guidelines for writing assignments in sophomore biology majors core laboratory course; assisting students in completing library research as they develop their assignment topics; consulting with and advising students on their written lab reports and term papers. Holding office hours for direct student-contact. Supervisor: Dr. Sue Karcher, Department of Biological Sciences, Purdue University.

Member Services Associate, Club NewTone (Lafayette, IN), 11/2011-7/2012.

Addressing all aspects of customer service via a front desk post: Handling point-of-sale transactions and customer concerns, member check-in, answering phones, unsupervised opening and closing of club for daily business, taking inventory, selling merchandise, assisting personal trainers and daycare attendants as necessary. Supervisor: Brandon Fleming, Director of Programming, Group Fitness, and Service Desk Team Leader.

Undergraduate Greenhouse Attendant, Biology Department, College of Wooster (Wooster, OH), 9/2000-5/2002.

Maintained Biology Department's greenhouse specimens. Watered and fertilized plants of various genera. Managed greenhouse and potting rooms. Supervisor: Dr. Marilyn Loveless, Department of Biology, College of Wooster.

SKILLS

- Punctual, hard-working, conscientious, organized, and dedicated, with great initiative, teamwork, and leadership skills
- Learning Management Systems including **Blackboard, Moodle, and Canvas**
- **Operating systems:** Microsoft Windows and Macintosh platforms
- **Software:** R and RStudio, bioinformatics tools including Blast, Consurf-DB, and AlphaFold, Blast2GO[®] functional annotation program for analysis of next-generation transcriptome sequencing, JMP statistical software for students, Google suite, Microsoft Office suite, Chrome/Internet Explorer/Mozilla/Safari/Firefox internet browsers
- Certified in **CPR**; capable of remaining calm and handling emergency situations
- Experience leading local, regional, and international **field trips** for students
- **Laboratory skills** include ability to use GC/MS, HPLC-UV, qRT-PCR, and conventional PCR instruments; microscopes; incubators; gel electrophoresis, staining, and visualization systems; sterile technique and tissue culture principles.
- Customer service skills include handling point-of-sale transactions and customer concerns, answering phones, opening and closing premises for daily business without supervision, multi-tasking, working under pressure, and handling inventory

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

Indiana Professional Educator's License, Number 1579865, Grades K-12, Agricultural Education and Grades 5-12, Biology. Original 2005-2010, renewals 2010-2015, 2015-2025, and 2025-2035. Office of Preparation and Professional Licensure, College of Education, Purdue University, West Lafayette IN.

Basic Physical Defense Certified Instructor, License Number 18RCT-1549, December 2013-present. National Academy of Defense Education / Rape Aggression Defense Systems, Denham Springs LA.

Heartsaver First Aid CPR AED Certification, American Heart Association, Card Number 246015369572. Two-year certification awarded January 2024. Instructed by David Hayes (Instructor ID 12081095870), Cuyahoga Community College Training Center, Cleveland OH. Renewal in progress.

Mental Health First Aid USA Certification, National Council for Mental Wellbeing (Washington DC). Three-year certification awarded October 2023. Instructed by Kerry Renner, Mental Health First Aid of Ohio.

QPR Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Certification, QPR Institute (Spokane WA). Certification awarded January 2024. Instructed by Keith Kline and Stacy Ray, QPR Certified Gatekeeper Instructors.

National Association for Fitness Certification, Group Fitness training in progress.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Active

- Association for Biology Laboratory Education (ABLE), 2004-2009, 2014-present
- Association of College and University Biology Educators (ACUBE), 2021-present
- Beta Beta Beta (Tri-Beta) National Biological Honor Society, Life Member (inducted 1999)
- Black River Audubon Society (regional association for National Audubon Society), 2023-present
- Indiana Bellydance Collective (formerly, Indiana State Association of Middle Eastern Dancers and Teachers), 2006-present
- National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT), 2003-2009, 2016-present
- National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), 2003-2008, 2019-present
- Ohio Bluebird Society (OBS), 2025-present
- Phi Beta Kappa (PBK) Society, Life Member (inducted 2002)
- Science Education of Ohio (SECO; state association for NSTA), 2025-present
- Science Educators for Equity, Diversity, and Social Justice (SEEDS), 2024-present
- Sigma Xi Scientific Research Honor Society, Faculty Member (inducted 2024)
- Sigma Zeta National Science and Mathematics Honor Society, Faculty Member, Life Member (inducted 2014)
- Society for College Science Teachers (SCST), 2006-2009, 2019-2022, 2025-present
- Society for the Advancement of Biology Education Research (SABER), 2025-present

Past

- American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), 2009-2012
- American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), 2006-2010
- Association for Science Teacher Education (ASTE; national organization), 2021-2023
- Hoosier Association of Science Teachers, Incorporated (HASTI), 2003-2008
- Indiana Association of Agricultural Education (IAAE), 2004-2008
- Indiana Association of Biology Teachers (IABT), 2003-2009
- Kentucky Science Teachers Association (KSTA; state association for NSTA), 2022-2025
- Mid-Atlantic Association for Science Teacher Education (MAASTE; regional), 2012-2023
- National FFA Alumni Association, 2005-2012
- Ohio FFA Alumni Association, 2005-2012

POSTERS & PRESENTATIONS (**denotes undergraduate students)

- French, D.G.** (2025). *Invited Seminar*: Puffin Stuff: Natural History and Conservation of the Atlantic Puffin. Presented for the Oberlin College Biology Seminar series (Oberlin, OH; Nov 21).
- French, D.G.** and French, E. (2025). *Poster*: Don't Call Me Creepy: Bringing Close Observation Skills from the Art Museum into the Biology Classroom to Challenge Typical Stereotypes and Inspire Curiosity about Arthropods. Presented at the National Association of Biology Teachers annual national conference (St. Louis, MO; Oct 30-Nov 2).
- French, D.G.** (2025). *Poster*: Birds Flying High: A Weekly Ecology Summer Camp Experience in Maine for Educators. Presented at the National Association of Biology Teachers annual national conference (St. Louis, MO; Oct 30-Nov 2).
- French, D.G.** (2025). *Presentation*: Biodiversity on a Budget: Easy Sampling of Local Arthropod Populations Using Affordable Equipment. Presented at the National Association of Biology Teachers annual national conference (St. Louis, MO; Oct 30-Nov 2).
- French, D.G.** (2025). *Presentation*: From Paper to Pixels: Lessons Learned in Training College Biology Students in the Art of Electronic Lab Notebooks. Presented at the National Association of Biology Teachers annual national conference (St. Louis, MO; Oct 30-Nov 2).
- French, D.G.** and Browning, J. (2022). *Presentation & Poster*: Science and Religion in Symbiosis: An Interdisciplinary Learning Experience for Biology Majors. Presented at the National Science Teaching Association national conference (Houston, TX; March 31-April 2).
- French, D.G.** and Browning, J. (2021). *Presentation*: Science and Religion in Symbiosis: An Interdisciplinary Learning Experience for Biology Majors in a Liberal Arts Undergraduate Setting. Presented at the Kentucky Academy of Science (virtual; hosted by Eastern Kentucky University; November 5-6).
- French, D.G.** and Browning, J. (2019). *Poster*: Science and Religion in Symbiosis: A Collaborative Learning Experience for Biology Majors in a Liberal Arts Undergraduate Setting. Presented at the National Association of Biology Teachers Annual Conference (Chicago, IL; November 14-17, 2019). Older version presented at the Mid-Atlantic Association for Science Teacher Education Regional Conference (Harrisonburg, VA; September 27-29).
- French, D.G.** and Browning, J. (2019). *Roundtable Discussion*: Science and Religion in Symbiosis: Part 2 – A Follow-Up Discussion to Last Year's Presentation. Presented at the Mid-Atlantic Association for Science Teacher Education Regional Conference (Pipestem, WV; September 26-28).
- Browning, J., Williams, K., Steigerwalt, J. and **French, D.G.** (2019). *Presentation*: Form a Posse: Models of Collaborative Teaching. Presented at the Appalachian College Association Annual Summit Meeting (Pigeon Forge, TN; September 26-28).
- Browning, J. and **French, D.G.** (2018). *Presentation*: Science and Religion in Symbiosis. Presented at the Appalachian College Association Annual Summit Meeting (Kingsport, TN; September 28-30).
- Freeman, H., Steigerwalt, J., and **French, D.G.** (2018). *Presentation*: Building a First-Year Studies Program: Successes and Challenges in Engaging First-Year Students. Presented at the Appalachian College Association Annual Summit Meeting (Kingsport, TN; September 28-30).
- French, D.G.** (2017). *Presentation*: UPIKE's Natural History Courses. Presented at Elkhorn Area Women's Club (Elkhorn City, KY, October 23) and at Big Sandy River Basin Coalition (Pikeville, KY, April 14).
- French, D.G.** and Childers, K. (2017). *Presentation*: Selfie Strong – Women's Self-defense Basics. Presented at Eastern Kentucky Strong Conference for High-School Women (Pikeville, KY; October 17).
- French, D.G.** and Meyer, M. (2017). *Presentation*: Best Practices in Experiential Learning: A Case Study Using Ornithology. Presented at the Appalachian College Association Annual Summit Meeting (Kingsport, TN; September 28-30).
- Freeman, H. and **French, D.G.** (2017). *Presentation*: Experiential Learning Practices in Classroom Design. Presented at UPIKE faculty orientation (Pikeville, KY; August 14).
- French, D.G.** (2017). *Presentation*: Making Sustainability Relevant to Today's College Students through Experiential Learning. Presented at the Engaging Kentucky Undergraduates through Experiential Education conference (Danville, KY; March 21).

- Williams, K., Fugate, E., **French, D.**, Meyer, M., Runyon, A., and Steigerwalt, J. (2016). *Presentation*: Promoting Faculty and Academic Librarian Collaboration: A Panel Discussion. Presented at the Appalachian College Association Annual Summit Meeting (Kingsport, TN; September 28-October 1).
- French, D.G.** (2016). *Presentation*: Making Sustainability Relevant to Today's College Students. Presented at the Mid-Atlantic Association for Science Teacher Education Regional Conference (Gatlinburg, TN; September 22-24).
- Freeman, H., **French, D.**, Meyer, M., and Whittier, T. (2016). *Presentation*: Student Engagement In and Out of the Classroom. Presented at UPIKE faculty orientation (Pikeville, KY; August 15).
- French, D.G.** (2015). *Presentation*: Practical Implementation of Sustainability Curriculum in a Non-science Major Undergraduate Course. Presented at the Kentucky Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting (Lexington, KY; November 13-15).
- **Cline, L., **Summers, T.M., and **French, D.G.** (2015). *Student poster*: Think Sustainable – Planting the Seeds to Sustainability. Presented at the Kentucky Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting (Lexington, KY; November 13-15).
- **Keene, T., **Bowling, K.J., **French, D.G.**, and Meyer, M.J. (2015). *Student poster*: Summer Capstone Trip for a Non-traditional Science Education Course. Presented at the Kentucky Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting (Lexington, KY; November 13-15).
- **Smith, N., **Thacker, S., **French, D.G.**, and Meyer, M.J. (2015). *Student poster*: Classroom vs. Field: Experiences in Learning and Retention. Presented at the Kentucky Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting (Lexington, KY; November 13-15).
- French, D.G.** and Meyer, M.J. (2015). *Poster*: The Use of High-impact and Non-cognitive Educational Practices in Building Classroom Communities in a Variety of Biology Courses. Presented at the Kentucky Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting (Lexington, KY; November 13-15). Presented at the Appalachian College Association Annual Summit Meeting (Kingsport, TN; October 1-3).
- Meyer, M.J. and **French, D.G.** (2015). *Poster*: The Expanded Use of High-impact and Non-cognitive Educational Practices in Building Classroom Communities in a Variety of Biology Courses. Presented at the Mid-Atlantic Association for Science Teacher Education Regional Conference (Salt Fork State Park, OH; October 22-24).
- French, D.G.** and Mathis, J.E. (2014). *Presentation*: Assessing Sustainability Literacy of Appalachian College Students: A Preliminary Study. Presented at the Kentucky Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting (Lexington, KY; November 13-15).
- Meyer, M.J. and **French, D.G.** (2014). *Poster*: The Use of High-impact and Non-cognitive Educational Practices in Building Classroom Communities in a Biology Course. Presented at the Mid-Atlantic Association for Science Teacher Education Regional Conference (Blowing Rock, NC; September 18-20) and the Kentucky Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting (Lexington, KY; November 13-15).
- **Gannon, O., **Blackburn, T., **Collinsworth, A., and **French, D.** (2014). *Student poster*: Designing a Rainwater Catchment System for a Community Garden as an Experiential Service-learning Project for a Botany Course. Presented at the Kentucky Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting (Lexington, KY; November 13-15).
- **Stacy, R., **Williamson, A., **Bevins, A., **French, D.**, and Meyer, M. (2014). *Student poster*: A Non-traditional Approach to Re-discover the Traditional Foundations of Community through a Restoration Ecology Course. Presented at the Kentucky Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting (Lexington, KY; November 13-15).
- French, D.G.** and Meilan, R. (2011). *Poster*: Rapid Transcriptome Characterization of Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) Using 454 Sequencing to Study Effects of Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) Infestation. Presented at the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources Annual Research Symposium (West Lafayette, IN; April 8).
- French, D.G.** and Meilan, R. (2010). *Poster*: Identification of a Biomarker for *Fraxinus* Spp. Presented at the 2010 Department of Forestry and Natural Resources Annual Research Symposium (West Lafayette, IN; April 14).
- French, D.G.** and Meilan, R. (2010). *Invited Presentation*: Comparing Metabolomic Profiles of Asian and North American Ash Species (Genus *Fraxinus*) to Investigate the Basis for Resistance to Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*). Presented at the 2010 Symposium on Ash in North America (West Lafayette, IN; March 11).
- French, D.G.** and Meilan, R. (2009). *Poster*: Development of a Biomarker for Jasmonate Pathway Function in *Fraxinus*. Presented at the 2009 Department of Forestry and Natural Resources Annual Research Symposium (West Lafayette, IN; April 20).

- French, D.G.,** Cooper, B., Groover, A. and Meilan, R. (2008). *Poster: Auxin Analysis of Two ARK1 Over-expressing Lines of Populus.* Presented at the 2008 Department of Forestry and Natural Resources Annual Research Symposium (West Lafayette, IN; April 11).
- French, D.G.,** Cooper, B., Groover, A. and Meilan, R. (2007). *Poster: Auxin Analysis of Two 35S:ARK1 Mutant Lines of Populus.* Presented at the 2007 Department of Forestry and Natural Resources Annual Research Symposium (West Lafayette, IN; April 13).
- French, D.G.** (2007). *Presentation: The Green Menace of the Midwest: Emerald Ash Borer and What We're Doing to Save America's Ash Trees.* Presented for the Spring 2007 PULSe Student Colloquium series (West Lafayette, IN; February 2).
- French, D.G.** and Balschweid, M. (2006). *Presentation: Scientific Inquiry in Agricultural Education Teacher Preparation.* Presented at the North Central Agricultural Education Research Conference (Ames, IA).
- French, D.G.** and Balschweid, M. (2006). *Presentation: Scientific Inquiry in Agricultural Education Teacher Preparation: A Look at Teacher Educators' Perceptions.* Presented at the North Central Agricultural Education Research Conference (Ames, IA).
- French, D.G.** and Karcher, S.J. (2004). *Presentation: A Lesson in Prairie Conservation: An Example of Collaborative Science Outreach to Local Community Schools Through Cooperation Between Local Industry and Undergraduate Students at a Local University.* Presented at the Annual Association for Biology Laboratory Education Conference (Bowling Green, OH).
- French, D.G.** and Karcher, S.J. (2004). *Presentation: A Lesson in Prairie Conservation: A Joint Project Between Purdue University, Eli Lilly and Company, and Mintonye Elementary School.* Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Hoosier Association of Science Teachers, Incorporated (Indianapolis, IN).
- **French, D.G.** (2002). *Poster: A Study to Determine the Effects of Light, Temperature, and Developmental Stage on Cyanidin 3-glucoside Accumulation in Fresh Leaves of Four Genotypes of Lettuce (Lactuca sativa).* Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Ohio Academy of Science (Columbus, OH).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

*Conferences Attended (**denotes presenter)*

- Ohio Bluebird Society annual meeting (Ashland, OH), Mar 7, 2026.
- **National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT) annual national conference (St. Louis, MO), Oct 30-Nov 2, 2025.
- National Science Teaching Association (NSTA) annual national conference (Philadelphia, PA), Mar 26-29, 2025.
- Ohio Natural History / Ohio Biological Society annual conference (Columbus, OH), Feb 24, 2024.
- The Science of Consciousness, hosted by the University of Arizona Center for Consciousness Studies (virtual), Apr 18-22, 2022.
- **National Science Teaching Association annual national conference (Houston, TX), Mar 31-Apr 2, 2022.
- Kentucky Science Teacher Association Higher Education Summit (virtual), Feb 24, 2022.
- Association of Science Teacher Educators (virtual), Jan 5-8, 2022.
- **Kentucky Academy of Science annual meeting (virtual), Nov 5-6, 2021; (Cincinnati, OH), Nov 13-14, 2015; (Lexington, KY), Nov 13-15, 2014; (Morehead, KY), Nov 8-9, 2013; and (Richmond, KY), Oct 19-20, 2012.
- Remote Learning Conference hosted by Arizona State University, Jul 13-14, 2020 (virtual).
- **National Association of Biology Teachers annual national conference (Chicago, IL), Nov 14-17, 2019.
- Festival of Faiths Interfaith Conference (Louisville, KY), Apr 25-27, 2019.
- **Appalachian College Association Annual Summit Meeting (Knoxville, TN), Sep 28-30, 2017; Sep 28-Oct 1, 2016; and Oct 1-3, 2015.
- National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) annual national conference (St. Louis, MO), Oct 11-14, 2017.
- University of Kentucky's Women and Gender Studies annual conference (Lexington, KY), Sep 16, 2017.
- **Mid-Atlantic Association for Science Teacher Education Regional Conference (Pipestem, WV), Sep 26-28, 2019; (Harrisonburg, VA), Sep 27-29; (Gatlinburg, TN), Sep 22-24, 2016; (Salt Fork State Park, OH), Oct 22-24, 2015; and (Blowing Rock, NC), Sep 18-20, 2014.
- **Engaging Kentucky Undergraduates through Experiential Education Conference (Danville, KY), Mar 21, 2017.
- **The Berry Center Conference on Education for Homecoming: A Sustainable Agriculture Degree Program Convening (New Castle, KY), May 20, 2015, as a UPIKE representative.
- **2010 Symposium on Ash in North America (West Lafayette, IN). Mar 10-12, 2010.
- **Hardwood Tree Improvement and Regeneration Center Advisory Committee Annual Meetings, 2006 and 2007 (West Lafayette, IN).
- **Central Hardwood Forest Conferences, 2007 and 2008 (West Lafayette, IN).
- **2006 North Central Agricultural Education Research Conference (Ames, IA).
- **2004 Annual Association for Biology Laboratory Education Conference (Bowling Green, OH).
- **2004 Annual Meeting of the Hoosier Association of Science Teachers, Incorporated (Indianapolis, IN).
- **2002 Annual Meeting of the Ohio Academy of Science (Columbus, OH) as a presenter.

Fellowships

- 2025-26 AY - Course-based Undergraduate Research Experience (CURE) TAPESTRy Network Fellow. *Topic:* Advancement of CURE teaching assistants (TAs) as instructors, researchers, and leaders. *Goal:* Create a TA professional development resource for deployment at Oberlin College with optional wider dissemination. Competitive selection process. Funded by National Science Foundation grant (DBI-2217147). Website: <https://curetapestry.org/>. Facilitator, Jeffrey Olimpo (jto224@lehigh.edu).
- Fall 2025 - Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) BioInteractive's Faculty Online Learning Community (FoLC) Participant. *Topic:* Assessment practices. *Goal:* Modify and extend an existing HHMI BioInteractive resource for publication in the [Educator Resource Library](#). Competitive selection process. Website: <https://www.biointeractive.org/professional-learning/faculty-online-learning-communities-folcs>. Facilitator, Morgan Heinz (hheinz@uw.edu).
- Spring 2026 - Ecological Society of America (ESA)'s Four-Dimensional Ecology Education (4DEE) Framework Initiative Faculty Mentoring Network (FMN) Participant. *Topic:* Transforming Ecology Education (TEE) to 4D: Incorporating Cross-Cutting Themes (CCT) in Ecology Education. *Goal:* Align and refine an existing BIOL 211 module with the 4DEE framework and explicitly include at least one CCT. Competitive selection process. Funded by National Science Foundation grant (DBI-2120678). Website: <https://esa.org/4dee/tee-rcn/>. Facilitator, Joey Moreno (joey@esa.org).
- 2006-2009 - Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) Fellow, Department of Forestry & Natural Resources, Purdue University. For PhD students with financial need who are interested in a career in teaching or research. Competitive selection process. Funded by the Federal Department of Education. Facilitator, Rob Swihart (rswihart@purdue.edu).

Selected Workshops Attended (comprehensive list available upon request)

- Ohio State University Stone Lab "Understanding Spiders" workshop (Gibraltar Island, OH), Aug 2026.
- Hog Island Audubon Camp Summer Educators' Camp, Aug 10-15, 2025.
- InStats.org Introduction to R for Beginners with Subham Mridha, May 2025 (virtual).
- New England Biolabs / Smith College Molecular Biology Summer Workshop, Jul 9-22, 2023.
- National Science Teachers Association annual STEM Forum, Jul 30, 2020 (virtual).
- Association for Biology Laboratory Education series of online discussions focused on online science teaching in the pandemic, May 2020 (virtual).
- American Museum of Natural History Evolution course (6-week online course), Jan-Feb 2020.
- *Assessment as a Cycle: Developing Critical Thinking Through the Assessment Process*. Workshop presented at UPIKE by Teresa Flateby (Georgia Southern), Apr 4-5, 2019.
- Appalachian Writers' Workshop (Hindman, KY), Jul 28, 2017.
- *Increasing the Critical Thinking of Your Biology Students: Research, Assessment, and Ideas to Transform Teaching and Learning*. Webinar from Central Washington University, hosted by McGraw Hill Publisher (online), Mar 16, 2017.
- Attended Weather Spotter Training through National Weather Service (virtual), Mar 7, 2017.
- Attended Eastern Kentucky Winter Beekeeping School (Hazard, KY), Jan 21, 2017.
- Appalachian College Association Teaching & Learning Institute (Hickory, NC), Jun 2-6, 2014.
- University of Pikeville Allara Library *Information Literacy* workshop (Pikeville, KY), Aug 2013.
- 19th North American Forest Biology Workshop, May 2007 (Bloomington, IN).

Miscellanea

- Dance experience and related professional development details are available at my website, www.ranakalila.com.

PUBLICATIONS

In Preparation

- French, D. (2026). *Existing Resource Modification: Decoding Variable Types in Data – An Extension*, a product of participation in HHMI BioInteractive's Fall 2025 FOLC experience. *In preparation for publication in HHMI's Educator Resource Library*. [DOI TBD].
- French, D. (2026). *New Module: Using RStudio to Introduce Analysis of Arthropod Biodiversity Data in the College Ecology Classroom*, a product of participation in ESA TEE's 4DEE Spring 2026 FMN experience. *In preparation for publication in ESA's teaching journal, Teaching Issues and Experiments in Ecology*. [DOI TBD].
- French, D. (2026). *New Resource: Welcome to Teaching for the Oberlin College Biology Department: A Guide for Training Teaching Assistants (Blackboard course and TA handbook)*, a product of participation in the CURE TAPESTRy Network's 2025-26 Fellowship Program. *In preparation for publication on CURE TAPESTRy's website*. [DOI TBD].
- French, D. and French, E. (2026). *Journal Article: Don't Call Me Creepy: Bringing Close Observation Skills from the Art Museum into the Biology Classroom to Challenge Typical Stereotypes and Inspire Curiosity about Arthropods*. *In preparation for publication in NABT's national journal, American Biology Teacher*. [DOI TBD].

Published

- French, D. & Meilan, R. (2013). Germination trials for Asian and North American ash species. *Tree Planters Notes* 56(2), 27-34.
- French, D. (2012). Transcriptomic profiling of North American ash trees (genus *Fraxinus*) [Ph.D. dissertation]. Purdue University. Available at <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/dissertations/AAI3544144/>.
- Zawaski, C., Ma, C., Strauss, S.H., French, D., Meilan, R., & Busov, V.B. (2012). PHOTOPERIOD RESPONSE 1 (PHOR1)-like genes regulate shoot/root growth, starch accumulation, and wood formation in *Populus*. *Journal of Experimental Botany* 63(15), 5623-34.
- McDonnell, L.M., Coleman, H.D., French, D.G., Meilan, R., & Mansfield, S.D. (2010). Engineering trees with target traits. In: *Forests and Genetically Modified Trees*. Eds.: IUFRO Task Force. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations: Rome. pp. 77-122.
- French, D.G. (2010). Determining the basis for emerald ash borer resistance. Department of Forestry and Natural Resources: *Compass* magazine, Fall 2010 edition. pp. 12-14.
- French, D.G. & Balschweid, M. (2009). Scientific inquiry in agricultural education teacher preparation: A look at teacher educators' perceptions. *Journal of Agricultural Education*, 50(4), 25-35.
- French, D.G. & Balschweid, M. (2006). Scientific inquiry in agricultural education teacher preparation. Proceedings of the 2006 North Central Agricultural Education Research Conference, Ames, IA, September 21-23, 2006.
- French, D.G. & Balschweid, M. (2006). Scientific inquiry in agricultural education teacher preparation: A look at teacher educators' perceptions. Proceedings of the 2006 North Central Agricultural Education Research Conference, Ames, IA, September 21-23, 2006.
- French, D.G. & Karcher, S.J. (2004). A lesson in prairie conservation: An example of collaborative science outreach to local community schools through cooperation between local industry and undergraduate students at a local university. Proceedings of the 26th Annual Association for Biology Laboratory Education Conference, Bowling Green, OH, June 8-12, 2004. Volume 26. Available at: <http://www.ableweb.org/volumes/vol-26/mini.French.pdf>.
- Kleinhenz, M.D., French, D.G., Gazula, A. & Scheerens, J.C. (2003). Variety, shading, and growth stage effects on pigment concentrations in lettuce grown under contrasting temperature regimens. *HortTechnology*, 13(4), 677-683.
- Kleinhenz, M.D., Scheerens, J.C., Francis, D.M., Radovich, T.J.K., French, D.G., Gazula, A., Wszelaki, A., Sanchez-Vela, A., McIntyre, A.A.C., Delwiche, J., Ling, P., Amisi, K., & Doohan, D.J. (2003). From farm to consumer - Linking crop physiology and production with buyer-oriented quality. I. Vegetables. In: Proceedings of the International Conference on Quality in Chains, Vols. 1 and 2 – An Integrated View on Fruit and Vegetable Quality. Eds.: Tijskens, L.M.M. and Vollebregt, H.M. *Acta Horticulturae* 604, 95-103. International Conference on Quality in Chains, Wageningen, Netherlands, July 6-9, 2003.

SERVICE & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Professional Contributions

- Currently serving as a reviewer of national teaching conference presentation abstracts, Society for the Advancement of Biology Education Research, 2025-present
- Currently serving as a reviewer of national teaching conference presentation abstracts, National Science Teachers Association, 2023-present
- Currently serving as the Oberlin College point-of-contact and lead implementer for BIOL 211 student participation in a national curriculum study funded by NSF Grant 2120459 - Undergraduate Student Experiences with Citizen Science. Website: <https://qubeshub.org/community/groups/usecitsci>. Facilitator, Heather Vance-Chalcraft (vancechalcraft@ecu.edu), Spring-Fall 2026
- Currently serving as the Oberlin College point-of-contact and lead implementer for BIOL 211 student participation in a national curriculum study utilizing datasets from Data Nuggets (<https://datanuggets.org/>). Study title: Unexpected Results - Exploring Responses to Unexpected Results Among Scientists and in Undergraduate Classrooms. Facilitator, Carolyn Graham, University of Buffalo (graham29@buffalo.edu), Spring-Fall 2026
- Currently serving as the Oberlin College administrator for BIOL 224 student participation in a national perception of lab skills study administered under Cornell University IRB (IRB0150022). Facilitator, Austin Zuckerman, Cornell University (az568@cornell.edu), Spring 2026
- Currently serving as a pilot tester for new “Bioprospecting Freshwater Algae Microbiology Kit” algae growth kit, Algae Research Supply (Vista, CA), Fall 2025-Spring 2026
- Served on editorial board for *BioScene: Journal of College Biology Teaching*, the professional journal for the Association of College and University Biology Educators (2022-24)
- Served as secretary for the Science Education section of the Kentucky Academy of Science (2021-22)
- Reviewed manuscript for *Journal of the American Society for Horticultural Science*, Aug 2021
- Reviewed two chapters from *Ethnobotany: A Modern Perspective* textbook (Kendall Hunt Publishing), Jan 2020
- On behalf of the Kentucky Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness, I reviewed the University of Cumberland's Master of Arts in Teaching program (Aug 2019) and Transylvania University (May 2020) for alignment with state standards. This contributes toward continued accreditation for each program by the State of Kentucky.
- On behalf of UPIKE College of Education, I reviewed secondary-education biology and chemistry program requirements for alignment with Next Generation Science Standards; provided recommendation to Education Department regarding changes needed to better align required courses with NGSS content. Proposals made to curriculum committee and approved by faculty at Nov 2016 faculty meeting.
- Judge, Science Education Division (all levels), Kentucky Academy of Science annual meeting, Nov 2021
- Judge, Plant Sciences Division (all levels), Lafayette (IN) Regional Science & Engineering Fair, Mar 2012
- Coordinator, small intellectual reading group consisting of faculty and community members, meeting on a monthly basis, Jun 2014-Jun 2015

Committee / Administrative Work

Oberlin College

- Currently serving as the departmental coordinator of sophomore-level core biology laboratory courses (BIOL 211 and 224). Duties include designing and editing weekly lesson plans, manuals, protocols, analyses, and other required written materials; procuring and preparing reagents, media, and other materials necessary for each week's activities; training and supporting faculty instructors and teaching assistants across concurrent lab sections; designing and administering associated Blackboard and Google Drive sites; preparing and administering student assignments; developing scoring guidelines for assessments; maintaining lab stocks (bacteria strains, yeast strains, and plasmid collections) and living and preserved organisms; keeping inventory and ordering supplies; coordinating with support staff for set-up, maintenance, and repairs as necessary; exploring internal and external collaborations for potential investigative projects; and soliciting input and feedback from the wider department relevant to the core-lab student experience; maintaining and organizing physical lab, prep, and stockroom space as necessary; 2024-present

- Currently serving as the departmental supervisor of teaching assistants associated with sophomore-level core biology laboratory courses; recruiting, training, managing, and supporting up to 10 teaching assistants per semester whose duties range from assisting during labs to running independent weekly study sessions; 2024-present
- Currently serving as an academic faculty advisor at Oberlin College for approximately 20 biology majors and undeclared first-year students annually; write up to 20 letters of recommendation annually for professional and graduate school applications as well as summer internships; 2024-present
- Currently serving as a biology department faculty and staff committee member. Duties include reviewing Oberlin College biology faculty application materials and serving on subsequent interview panels (including for both permanent and visiting positions), participating in reviews of continuing personnel, participating in the peer observation review process for teaching and instruction activities, reviewing departmental budget requests, and attending weekly meetings and annual retreats; 2023-present
- Currently training as an administrator for the Biology Measuring Achievement and Progression in Science (Bio-MAPS) instrument, a suite of diagnostic assessments aligned with the Vision and Change nationally validated set of core biology concepts used to measure student understanding across the Oberlin College biology degree program; Spring 2026
- Currently serving as vice president for Oberlin College chapter of the Sigma Xi Scientific Research Honor Society. Duties include assisting in planning and execution of annual spring induction ceremony for students; 2024-present

UPIKE

- Served as an academic faculty advisor at UPIKE for approximately 40 (and as many as 60) biology and pre-service secondary education majors annually and wrote as many as 30 letters of recommendation annually for professional and graduate school applications as well as summer internships, 2012-2023
- University Committee Work: Math/Science Division representative to the General Education Committee (2020-2022), Osteopathic Medicine Scholars Program / OMSP (2018-2022), Experiential Learning (2018-2020), Faculty Executive Committee representative for Math/Science Division (2017-2020), First-Year Experience committee (2016-2019), CREDO external review committee (2017-2018), Honors Program development committee (2015-2018), Transportation committee (2017), Student Evaluation Form Redevelopment committee (2017), Women's History Month planning committee (2017), Special Events committee (2012-2014), Teacher Education Program committee (2012-2014)
- Biology Department Program Coordinator, 2019-2021 (compiled annual departmental report and coordinated class schedules every semester)
- Supervisor for annual Major Field Assessment Test for biology majors, 2016-2023
- Served on several search committees for UPIKE Math & Science division faculty (6 biology positions, 5 chemistry positions), 2016-2023
- Supervisor for freshmen majors lab instructor position, 2017-2021
- Served at several GROWL admissions orientation sessions as representative of Math & Science Division and/or Study Abroad and/or Honors Program, 2016-present
- Compiled annual Math & Science Division Honors Night slideshows, 2016-2019
- Organized and executed annual Math & Science Division Welcome Party for students in fall semester, 2016-2019
- Completed 360-degree evaluations for Division Chair, Dean, and Provost (2018)
- Advisor, UPIKE Beta Beta Beta National Honor Society (Pi Zeta chapter) & Biology Club, 2015-2018.
- Departmental work-study student supervisor, 2013-2016 and 2022-2023
- Procured donations of sailfish specimen, telescope, skeletons, dissection charts, and other lab materials from outside sources, ongoing
- Coordinated clean-up and organization of biology department storage space, stock rooms, and lab spaces; developed space in the basement for a soil/field tool room; assisted with compound microscope cleaning and maintenance (2012-2021)

Purdue University

- Purdue University Graduate School Peer Ombudsman, Jul-Dec 2009

- Purdue University Graduate Student Government Endowment Task Force, Mar-Dec 2009
- Purdue University Graduate Student Government, secretary (Apr 2008-Apr 2009) and Department of Forestry & Natural Resources senator/social committee chair (Apr 2007-Apr 2008)
- Director of New Student Mentoring Program, PULSe Interdisciplinary Life Sciences, Purdue University, 2005-06

Grants

- Applied to the Oberlin College Office of Foundation, Government, and Corporate Grants Student Teaching Assistantship Grant competition for **\$2,500** in financial support to develop TA professional development as part of the framework of the new biology 200-level course-based undergraduate research experience curricula (for Fall 2026; application currently in review)
- Awarded **\$2,125** scholarship from Black River Audubon Society to attend Hog Island Audubon Camp Educators' Week experience (Summer 2025)
- Applied for **\$5,000** ABLE Roberta Williams Laboratory Teaching Initiative Grant to develop a place-based, course-based undergraduate research experience for an introductory-level ecology laboratory course (Spring 2025) – Not funded
- Awarded **\$200** grant from Allen Memorial Art Museum to design an object-based teaching lesson for the introductory ecology lab experience (Spring 2025)
- Awarded **\$29,000** grant from USDA for Agriculture Planning Grant (feasibility study for instituting a high-technology greenhouse certificate program at UPIKE); grant was transferred to a different faculty member for final administration (Spring 2018)
- Awarded **\$2,750** grant from Kentucky Personal Responsibility in a Desirable Environment (PRIDE) for use in environmental work in the classroom – Installed campus garden boxes and tool shed with awarded funds (2017-18 academic year)
- Applied for Council of Independent Colleges Seminars on Science Pedagogy grant to workshop the First-Year Studies for Science Majors cohort idea (Spring 2018) – Not funded
- Applied for IDEA Impact grant to implement sustainability curriculum (Spring 2017) – Not funded
- Applied for an Association of Independent School Librarians (AISL) grant to collect oral histories of eastern KY natural history experiences (Fall 2017) – Not funded

Community Outreach

- Instructor, Rape Aggression Defense System, University of Pikeville women's self-defense physical education class and community education workshops (<http://www.rad-systems.com>), Dec 2013-present
- Coordinated a "hissing cockroach starter colony" giveaway for high school science teachers across the country, Apr 2022
- Event Supervisor, "Ornithology" activity of Kentucky State Science Olympiad tournament, Apr 9, 2022
- Event Supervisor, "Water Quality" activity of University of Pikeville Regional Science Olympiad tournament, Feb 29, 2020 and Mar 2, 2019; "Ecology" activity, Mar 3, 2018 and Mar 4, 2017; "Green Generation" activity, Feb 28, 2015 and March 5, 2016; and "Write It, Do It" activity, Mar 2, 2013 and Mar 1, 2014
- Coordinated insect education lesson and adopt-a-hissing cockroach giveaway for 150 Pike County elementary students through Pike County Library, Apr 2021
- Guest speaker for campus Convocation series, topic: Science & Religion in Symbiosis, Nov 2021
- Instructor for UPIKE Mobile STEM program (DNA extraction lesson at Northpoint Academy), Dec 2019
- Coordinated dancers and performed a Middle Eastern dance piece for Pikeville Medical Center Heart Ball, Feb 2020
- Filmed segment for UPIKE "Finding Your Calling" video series sponsored by UPIKE Campus Ministries, Sep 2019
- Filmed segment for UPIKE Experiential Learning promotional video, Apr 2019
- Filmed segments for several UPIKE "Where the 99 Lead" episodes, 2016
- Performed reading for Martin Luther King Day March (Pikeville, KY), Feb 2018

- Leader, Pikeville KY International Shimmy Mob team (www.shimmymob.com), 2013-present (funds raised for local children’s shelter, Judi’s Place for Kids)
- Secretary and official University of Pikeville faculty representative, Sustainable Pike County (Pikeville, KY; <http://www.sustainablepikecounty.com>), Aug 2014-Aug 2015; UPIKE and SPC representative to Appalachian Christmas Fair steering committee, 2015; group disbanded in 2015.
- Citizen scientist, Project Feederwatch and Great Backyard Bird Count (Cornell University), winters of 2010-present
- Instructor, Eastern Kentucky Strong Women’s Conference (Pikeville, KY), “Basic Self-Defense”, October 17, 2017.
- Instructor, West Virginia University National Center of Excellence in Women’s Health “World on Wellness” movement sessions (“Shimmy into Shape” and “Introduction to Women’s Self-Defense”), Southern West Virginia Community & Technical College, Williamson, WV, Aug 20, 2016 and Sept 26, 2015
- Donated personal magazine subscriptions to UPIKE English as a Second Language program, 2012-2015; established a “free magazine/book” table in division lobby in 2016 (to present) that has been well-received
- Instructor, arthropod section of UPIKE STEM Day Camp (5th-6th grade session), Jul 2017
- Instructor, biology section of UPIKE Rogers Explorers camp (8th grade session), Jul 2016
- Instructor, astronomy section of UPIKE Science and Math Day Camp (5th-6th grade session), Jul 2015; chemistry section (5th-6th and 7th-8th grade sessions), Jul 2014
- Instructor, ecology section of UPIKE Science Day at St. Francis School, Mar 15, 2013

Experiential Learning

- Co-leader for international Belize trip for biology students, May 2013, May 2014, Mar 2016, May 2018, May 2022 (averaging 15 students and 2 faculty per trip).
- Coordinator and co-leader for ornithology student camping trips: for Florida coast field trip, May 2019; for Gulf Coast field trip, May-Jun 2017; and for coastal southeastern U.S. field trip, May-Jun 2015 (averaging 12 students and 2 faculty).
- Coordinator for Kentucky Reptile Zoo outreach program on UPIKE’s campus, Oct 2019 (attended by approximately 100 students and 20 faculty).
- Chaperone for the Festival of Faiths Interfaith Conference (Louisville, KY), Apr 25-27, 2019 (10 students and 3 faculty).
- Coordinator and head leader for regional field trip to Indianapolis International Festival, Nov 2015; chaperone, Nov 2016 trip (30 students and 6 faculty).
- Coordinator and co-leader for student trip to Kentucky Academy of Science annual conferences, 2014 (18 students, 3 faculty) and 2015 (20 students, 3 faculty).

HONORS & AWARDS

- Awarded scholarship to attend Hog Island Audubon Camp Educators' Week experience, sponsored by Black River Audubon Society, Aug 2025
- Inducted to Sigma Xi Scientific Research Honor Society (Oberlin Chapter) as faculty member, 2024
- Top Student and Certified Molecular Biologist, New England Biolabs / Smith College Molecular Biology Summer Workshop, Jul 2023
- Awarded UPIKE Faculty Development scholarship (\$5,000) to travel to Ecuador (Amazon Rainforest & Galapagos Islands) with a biology educators' two-week professional development experience, Jun-Jul 2018 (trip leader: Amy Dykstra, Bethel University)
- Winner, poster contest, Appalachian College Association Teaching & Learning Institute, June 2014 (topic: Integrating Technology into the Classroom)
- Inducted to Sigma Zeta National Science and Mathematics Honor Society (Beta Xi chapter) as faculty member, May 2014
- Second place finish in Ph.D. Research Poster Division, 2009 Forestry and Natural Resources Annual Spring Research Symposium
- Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Honor Roll, Department of Biological Sciences, Purdue University, Spring 2007 (retroactive for 2003-2005)
- Lynn Fellowship recipient, PULSe Interdisciplinary Life Sciences Program, Purdue University, 2005-06
- Received Certificate of Excellence, Praxis Biology Content Exam for Secondary Education, 15 November 2003
- Inducted to Phi Beta Kappa (Kappa of Ohio Chapter, College of Wooster), May 2002
- Received 'honors' rating on senior thesis, College of Wooster, May 2002
- Received *Cum laude* Bachelor of Arts degree, College of Wooster, May 2002
- Inducted to Beta Beta Beta National Biological Honor Society (Xi Nu Chapter), 1999
- Received National FFA Organization's American Degree, 1999
- Received Ohio FFA Organization's State Degree, 1998
- Received Ohio FFA Organization's Top Floriculture Proficiency Award, 1998 (Runner-up, 1997)