

Felix Javier Berrios Ortega

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Ecology and Evolutionary Biology 2024 – Present
University of Connecticut
Advisor: James Bernot

B.S., Wildlife Management 2019 – 2024
University of Puerto Rico – Humacao (UPRH) *Magna Cum Laude*

RESEARCH SKILLS

Data and Software: R Statistical Software, Insight Maker, Basic ArcGIS, BORIS, ZIMS, ZooMonitor, SPSS, MEGA

Wet Lab/Fieldwork: Infrared spectroscopy, Chromatography (Gas, TLC, Column), Crystallization, Distillation, Flow, Aquatic Invertebrate Care, Dichotomous key identification, PCR

RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

University of Iowa – REU in Interdisciplinary Evolutionary Sciences (May 2023 – August 2023)

Mentor: Dr. Maurine Neiman

Project: “Evaluating the Interaction Between Heat Stress Expected Under Climate Change and Nutrient Limitation in a Freshwater Snail”

Zoo Miami – FIU REU in Conservation Science (May 2022 – August 2022)

Mentors: Dr. Molly McGuire, Dr. Jennifer Vonk and Taylor Crews

Project: “Human Voice Recognition by Exotic Cats in Human Care”

University of California Santa Cruz Doris Duke Conservation Scholar’s Field Course (June 2021 – August 2021)

Final Project: “The Effects of Disturbance on Streambank Plant Communities”

LEADERSHIP, OUTREACH & SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

UNIDE Student Advisory Board (SAB) (April 2022 – Present)

- Participated in the NSF-funded project UNIDE (Undergraduate Network for Increasing Diversity of Ecologists).
- Participated and conducted meetings to discuss and provide feedback for the UNIDE Steering Committee.
- Worked with the UNIDE Steering Committee to improve the recruitment and retention of underrepresented students in ecological and environmental sciences.
- Managed the SAB’s social media accounts, virtual discord community and the UNIDE website.

SACNAS UPRH Chapter Founding President (December 2020 – May 2024)

- Started a SACNAS chapter in UPRH with a team of students.
- Hosted virtual personal and professional development activities for all the university community during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Managed a team of fellow students to efficiently plan and execute activities.

500 Queer Scientists Intern (September 2022 – September 2023)

- Assisted on the management of the social media platforms for 500 Queer Scientists.
- Managed and curated the profile submission spreadsheets.
- Worked with the organization to achieve our goal of providing role models for LGBTQ identifying scientists.

Founder of LGBTQ+ STEM Cast (March 2020 – December 2021)

<http://anchor.fm/lgbtqstemcast>

- Created a podcast to highlight the diversity in the sciences by providing a platform for LGBTQ+ scientists.
- Interviewed scientists from different STEM fields and edited episodes using garage band.
- Published and promoted episodes via Instagram and Twitter, growing a following of over 9,000 people.

Mentor (Summer 2020, Summer 2021)

PROUD (HHMI Sponsored) Pre-Semester Bootcamp, UPRH

- Mentored a group of 10 incoming freshmen about the transition to university and online courses.
- Guided students on their scheduling choices and oriented them on maintaining a work-life balance.

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

2024 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (\$111,000 + tuitions and fees)

2023 Cientifico Latino Graduate Student Mentorship Initiative, *Selected Participant*

2023 Purdue University Graduate Diversity Visitation Program

2023 University of Puerto Rico, “Fondo Dotal Scholarship” - \$1,300

2023 SEEDS Participation Award – National Field Trip

2022 Princeton University EEB Scholar

2022 SACNAS Chapter Officer Leadership October Retreat Participation Award

2022 Envision EEB at Michigan State Participation Award

2022 University of Puerto Rico, “Fondo Dotal Scholarship” - \$1,000

2022 ESA Regional Fieldtrip Participation Award

2022 USDA Puerto Rico Natural Resources Career Tracks (PRNCT)

2021 Reclaiming STEM Participation Award

2021 SACNAS Conference Registration Scholarship

2021 SEEDS Participation Award – ESA Conference

2021 University of California Santa Cruz Doris Duke Conservation Scholar

2020 Undergraduate Research Program of the Puerto Rico Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (PR-LSAMP)

2020 University of Puerto Rico, “Fondo Dotal Scholarship” - \$1,650

2020 University of Puerto Rico, “PSES Merit Scholarship” - \$850

2020 NSPN (National Science Policy Network) Personal Development Grant - \$200

Presentations

Ecological Society of America’s Annual Conference, August 8, 2024, Inspire Presentation, “Lessons Learned from Programs Focused on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) in Ecology”

Ecological Society of America’s Annual Conference, August 5, 2024, Oral Presentation, “Minoritized Student Perspectives on What Support Looks Like in Ecology - A Reassessment of Recruitment and Retention”

Ecological Society of America's Annual Conference, August 7, 2023, Oral Presentation, "Student Perspective on the Relationship Between Ecology Curriculum and Retention of Minoritized Students in Ecology Majors"

Summer Undergraduate Research Conference, University of Iowa, July 26, 2023, Poster Presentation "Evaluating the Interaction Between Heat Stress Expected Under Climate Change and Nutrient Limitation in a Freshwater Snail"

Life Discovery Conference, March 25, 2023, Oral Presentation, "Making ecology more inclusive: Student Perspectives"

National Diversity in STEM SACNAS Conference, October 28, 2022, Poster Presentation "Human Voice Recognition by Exotic Cats in Human Care"

Princeton University EEB Scholars Poster Session, October 7, 2022, Poster Presentation "Human Voice Recognition by Exotic Cats in Human Care"

Zoo Miami Research Experience for Undergraduates Symposium, July 29, 2022, Oral Presentation "Human Voice Recognition by Exotic Cats in Human Care"

6th Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program Annual Research Symposium, August 2, 2021, Oral Presentation "The Effects of Disturbance on Streambank Plant Communities"

39th Puerto Rico Interdisciplinary Scientific Meeting (PRISM), March 24, 2021, Virtual, Oral Presentation "Using the Forest Inventory and Analysis database to analyze and compare *Spathodea campanulata* and *Guarea guidonea*"

WORKSHOPS

July 2022 – Science Coding Immersion Program for BIPoc students in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at San Francisco State University

References

Dr. James Bernot

Assistant Professor – University of Connecticut
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Dr. Denny Fernandez Del Viso

Professor – University of Puerto Rico – Humacao
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Dr. Erika Zavaleta

Professor – University of California Santa Cruz
Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program Founder
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