Tauras P. Vilgalys

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Education:

Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA — May 2014

Major: B.S. in Biology — Minors: Biochemistry
GPA: 3.86 — GPA in Major: 3.99
University Honors Program; Dean's List

Research Experience:

Summer Research Intern, Quinn Lab, University of Denver — July 2013-Aug 2013

- Continued examining copies of the CR1 transposon in several goose species
- Started project searching for polymorphic loci in the Lake Titicata Frog genome
- Lab work included long PCR, colony PCR, ligation reactions, transformation, and sequencing
- Worked in Sequencher to compile consensus sequences

Research Assistant, Center for Urban Resilience, Loyola Marymount University — Mar 2013-Pres

- Worked with Dr. Pete Auger and Dr. Eric Strauss to design and conduct project
- Observed crow behavior to determine family groups and territorial boundaries
- Used game cameras, camcorders, and direct observation to record activity at bait site
- Examined influence of conspecifics and food availability upon caching behavior
- Banded crows on Loyola Marymount campus and the Venice Beach Least Tern Nest

Research Assistant, Watts Lab, Loyola Marymount University — Oct 2010-Pres

- Examined house finch reproduction with Dr. Heather Watts
- Obtained, archived, and analyzed historical nest records and environmental data
- Field work banding and capturing house finches
- Lab work including environmental manipulation, physical measurements, and hormone analysis
- Contributed to project design and development of research questions

REU Summer Intern, Whitney Lab, Center for Shark Research, Mote Marine Lab — May 2012-Aug 2012

- Working with Dr. Nick Whitney during the 2012 Mote Marine Lab REU program
- Project development and literature review
- Tagged sharks with ADLs (Acceleration Data Loggers) and custom float release packages
- Categorized dive behavior in IgorPro using Ethographer and k-means clustering
- Compared k-means clustering to visual categorization of dive types

Summer Research Intern, Olmstead Lab, University of Washington May 2011-Aug 2011

- Conducted research under PhD candidate Ryan Miller
- Phylogenic analysis of the Verbenacaea family by examining the concerted evolution of the multiple copied rbcS gene
- Lab work using extracted DNA involving PCR, cloning, sequencing, and sequence analysis using Sequencher

Presentations:

Loyola Marymount Summer Research Conference July 2013
Changes in Territoriality and Spatial Distribution of American Crows as a Result of Anthropogenic Food Resources, Oral Presentation

Loyola Marymount Undergraduate Research Symposium Mar 2013
Temperature-Influenced Termination of House Finch Breeding, Oral Presentation

Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research Nov 2012
Quantifying the Dive Behavior of Coastal Sharks, Poster Presentation

Mote Marine Laboratory REU Research Symposium Aug 2012
Quantifying the Dive Behavior of Coastal Sharks, Poster Presentation

West Coast Biological Undergraduate Research Conference Apr 2012
Changes in Reproductive Timing: An Analysis of *Carpodacus mexicanus,* Oral Presentation

Loyola Marymount Undergraduate Research Symposium Mar 2012
Changes in Reproductive Timing: An Analysis of California House Finches*,* Oral Presentation

Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research Nov 2011
Reproductive Timing in House Finches, Poster Presentation

Loyola Marymount Undergraduate Research Symposium Mar 2011
Timing of Breeding in California House Finches, Poster Presentation

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, General Biology 1 Lab, Loyola Marymount University Fall 2012, 2013

Teaching Assistant, General Biology 2 Lab, Loyola Marymount University Spring 2013

Honors and Awards:

Towner Scholarship, Biology Department, Loyola Marymount University June 2013
$4,000 scholarship to fund summer research

Summer Undergraduate Research Program, Loyola Marymount University May 2013-July 2013
University award to support summer research in Animal Behavior

LMU Undergraduate Research Fellowship, Loyola Marymount University Oct 2012-May 2013
University award to support independent research in Animal Behavior and Physiology

William McLaughlin Memorial Scholarship, Loyola Marymount University Oct 2012
Departmental Award for Junior Biology Majors, Awarded Based on Academic Merit

Mote Marine Lab NSF-REU Recipient May 2012-Aug 2012
Summer Research Internship in Shark Behavioral Ecology

Rains Research Fellowship, Loyola Marymount University Nov 2011-May 2012
Funding for independent research on Reproductive Timing in House Finches

General Chemistry Award, Chemistry Department, Loyola Marymount University May 2011
Dept. of Chemistry and Biochemistry award for most outstanding student in general chemistry

Presidential Scholar, Loyola Marymount University Aug 2010-May 2014

Eagle Scout, Troop 573, Boy Scouts of America May 2010
Valedictorian, Archbishop Murphy High School, Everett, WA May 2010

Society Memberships:

Alpha Sigma Nu (Jesuit Honors Society), Loyola Marymount University

Chemistry Society, Loyola Marymount University

Eagle Scouts of America

PASSION Magazine (A Student-Published Social Justice Magazine), Loyola Marymount University

2011-2012	Editor-in-Chief
2010-2011	Publishing and Design Editor

Sigma Xi, Loyola Marymount Chapter

2011-Present	Associate Member

Tri-Beta (Biological Sciences Honors Society), Loyola Marymount Chapter

2012-2013	Academic Chair
2011-Present	Full Member

University Honors Program, Loyola Marymount University

2010-Present	Member of the Students Honors Advisory Council

Laboratory and Field Techniques:

Vector Cloning	Bacterial Transformation	Bacterial Plating and Growth
Sequencing	Gel Electrophoresis	Alloenzyme Assays
Radio Telemetry	Avian and Elasmobranch Tagging, Capture, and Care	
PCR/Long PCR	General, Organic, and Biochemistry Techniques	
DNA Extraction	Game Cameras and Video Recording	

Technical Skills:

NCBI and ExPASy (genomic and proteomic databases and tools)

Sequencher (program for analysis of sequencing results)

SPSS and StatView (two statistics programs)

iSPY64 (motion-detection software to detect animal movement)

IgorPro (wave-analysis software used to analyze depth and acceleration traces)

Ethographer (IgorPro add-on used to form spectragraphs and K-means analysis)

Adobe Products (specifically skilled with InDesign and Photoshop)

Coursework:

Biology Coursework:

Biostatistical Analysis	DNA, Genes, and Biodiversity	Genetics
Cell Function	Hormones and Behavior	Biochemistry
Island Biology	Plant Development	

Psychology Coursework:

Cognition	Human Behavioral Genetics	Brain and Behavior

Fall 2013:

Ecology	Evolutionary Psychology	Biological Databases