

# L A U R A M C I S N E R O S

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY & EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY  
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT  
75 NORTH EAGLEVILLE ROAD, STORRS, CT, 06269-3043  
860-486-1772 • LAURA.CISNEROS@UCONN.EDU

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## EDUCATION

### Doctor of Philosophy

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Advised by Dr. Michael Willig  
University of Connecticut  
Storrs, Connecticut, United States

**In Progress**

*Cumulative GPA: 3.907*

### Bachelor of Science

Zoology, Concentration in Zoo and Aquarium Science, Honors  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, Michigan, United States

**May 2006**

*Cumulative GPA: 3.822*

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## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2013      The Honoraria and Travel Grant, American Society of Mammalogists. **\$300.00**
- 2012      Travel Award for Ninety-seventh Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America, Dimensions of Biodiversity Distributed Graduate Seminar, National Science Foundation. **\$1,220.24**
- 2010      Clark, Manter, Trainor, Wetzel and Whitworth Endowment Fund, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Connecticut. **\$750.00**
- 2010      Grants-in-Aid of Research, American Society of Mammalogists. **\$1,290.00**
- 2010      Student Research Scholarship, Bat Conservation International. **\$3,500.00**
- 2010      Multidisciplinary Environmental Research Award for Graduate Students, Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering, University of Connecticut. **\$8,000.00**
- 2009      Research Fellowship, Organization for Tropical Studies. **\$2,500.00**
- 2009      Center for Conservation and Biodiversity Award, Center for Conservation and Biodiversity, University of Connecticut. **\$600.00**
- 2009      Grants-in-Aid of Research, American Society of Mammalogists. **\$1,000.00**
- 2009      Multidisciplinary Environmental Research Award for Graduate Students, Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering, University of Connecticut. **\$5,000.00**
- 2007-2013      University Multicultural Fellowship, Graduate School, University of Connecticut. **Six year annual stipend**

2002-2003 Beaumont Tower Grant Education Scholarship, Michigan State University.  
**\$1,000.00**

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## **PUBLICATIONS**

- Presley, S. J., **L. M. Cisneros**, B. D. Patterson, and M. R. Willig. 2012. Vertebrate metacommunity structure along an extensive elevational gradient in the tropics: a comparison of bats, rodents, and birds. **Global Ecology and Biogeography** 21: 968-976.
- Willig, M. R., S. J. Presley, C. P. Bloch, I. Castro-Arellano, **L. M. Cisneros**, C. L. Higgins, and B. T. Klingbeil. 2011. Tropical metacommunities along elevational gradients: effects of forest type and other environmental factors. **Oikos** 120: 1497-1508.
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## **PRESENTATIONS**

- Cisneros, L. M.**, and M. R. Willig. 2013. Partitioning the effects of spatial and environmental variation on phylogenetic structure of a bat metacommunity in a human-modified landscape. Ninety-eighth Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- Willig, M. R., K. R. Burgio, **L. M. Cisneros**, L. D. Dreiss, B. T. Klingbeil, B. D. Patterson, and S. J. Presley. 2013. Metacommunity structure and multiple dimensions of biodiversity: reaching for the clouds. Fiftieth Anniversary Meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation and the Organization for Tropical Studies, San José, Costa Rica.
- Cisneros, L. M.**, and M. R. Willig. 2013. Identifying landscape characteristics that promote taxonomic, functional and phylogenetic dimensions of bat biodiversity. Ninety-third Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Willig, M. R., K. R. Burgio, **L. M. Cisneros**, L. D. Dreiss, B. T. Klingbeil, B. D. Patterson, and S. J. Presley. 2013. Comparative biodiversity of bats and rodents along an extensive tropical elevational gradient: taxonomic, functional, and phylogenetic dimensions. Ninety-third Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- \*Hall, R. W., K. A. Durant, **L. M. Cisneros**, R. M. Hyland, and M. R. Willig. 2013. Reproductive phenologies of phyllostomids bats from Costa Rica. Ninety-third Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- \*Hall, R. W., K. A. Durant, **L. M. Cisneros**, R. M. Hyland, and M. R. Willig. 2013. Reproductive phenologies of phyllostomids bats from Costa Rica. Sixteenth Annual Frontiers in Undergraduate Research Poster Exhibit, Storrs, Connecticut.
- Cisneros, L. M.**, and M. R. Willig. 2012. Effects of landscape structure on multiple dimensions of bat biodiversity. Ninety-seventh Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America, Portland, Oregon.
- Klingbeil, B. T., K. R. Burgio, **L. M. Cisneros**, L. M. Drosis, B. D. Patterson, S. J. Presley, and M. R. Willig. 2012. Variation in multiple dimensions of biodiversity along a tropical elevation gradient: inter-taxon comparison. Ninety-seventh Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America, Portland, Oregon.

**Cisneros, L. M.**, and M. R. Willig. 2011. Neotropical bat metacommunities in a human-modified landscape. Ninety-first Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists—A joint meeting with the Australian Mammal Society, Portland, Oregon.

**Cisneros, L. M.**, M. R. Willig, S. J. Presley, and B. Patterson. 2009. Comparison of tropical metacommunities along an elevational gradient. Graduate Student Research Symposium, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut.

Klingbeil, B. T., C. P. Bloch, I. Castro-Arellano, **L. M. Cisneros**, S. J. Presley, and M. R. Willig. 2009. Metacommunity structure of gastropods along an elevational gradient in the Luquillo Mountains, Puerto Rico. Luquillo Experimental Forest LTER Site Meeting, Rio Grande, Puerto Rico.

Willig, M. R., B. T. Klingbeil, C. P. Bloch, I. Castro-Arellano, **L. M. Cisneros**, and S. J. Presley. 2009. Metacommunity structure of gastropods along an elevational gradient in the Luquillo Mountains, Puerto Rico. LTER All Scientists Meeting, Estes Park, Colorado.

\* indicate student research conducted under my mentorship.

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## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

### **Dimensions of Biodiversity Distributed Graduate Seminar (DBDGS) Participant**

University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut  
August 2011 – August 2012

Participant in DBDGS, an innovative approach for synthesizing knowledge about biodiversity with a focus on training the next generation of researchers for higher levels of scientific collaboration. Collaborated with faculty and graduate students from the University of Connecticut and other institutions (national and international) in an effort to explore relationships between environmental drivers and biodiversity.

### **Field Research Leader**

Luquillo Experimental Forest, El Yunque National Forest, Puerto Rico  
May 2008 – August 2008

Led the field component of a study on the metacommunity structure of invertebrates along an elevational gradient. Contributions included organization of field materials, development of data collection schedule, and mentorship of two undergraduate students.

### **Field Research Assistant**

Tiputini Biodiversity Station, Yasuní Biosphere Reserve, Ecuador  
April 2007 – July 2007

Assisted with a long-term primate project, Proyecto Primates, directed by Dr. Anthony Di Fiore. Duties included collection of ecological and behavioral data of free ranging white-bellied spider monkeys (*Ateles belzebuth*) and woolly monkeys (*Lagothrix lagotricha*), and a monthly collection of phenological data of food-plant species.

### **Field Research Assistant**

Cocha Cashu Biological Station, Manu National Park, Peru  
May 2006 – August 2006

Assisted K. Nicole Gibson, Yale Ph.D. candidate, with data collection of ecological and social factors that influence male reproductive strategies in free ranging white-bellied spider monkeys (*Ateles belzebuth*).

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### **STUDENT MENTORSHIP**

#### **Independent Study: Kathryne Durant, Ryan Hall, and Rachael Hyland**

University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut  
January 2012 – May 2013

Reproductive phenologies of select species and ensembles of phyllostomid bats from northeastern Costa Rica. Resulted in two presentations and a manuscript submission in *Journal of Mammalogy*.

#### **Research Experiences for Undergraduates: Lauren Jones and Nicole Rivera**

Luquillo Experimental Forest, El Yunque National Forest, Puerto Rico  
May 2008 – August 2008

Metacommunity ecology of litter spiders along an elevational gradient in the Luquillo Mountains of Puerto Rico.

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### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

#### **Introductory Biology Teaching Assistant**

University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut  
August 2007 – December 2012

Instructor of introductory biology laboratories for non biology majors (BIOL 1102; Introduction to Biology). Taught laboratory for five semesters.

#### **Mammalogy Teaching Assistant**

University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut  
August 2011 – December 2011

Duties as lead laboratory instructor (EEB 3254/5254; Mammalogy) included preparing and instructing laboratories, and designing practicals. Activities outside of required responsibilities included weekly review sessions, and the development and implementation of a laboratory on specimen collection and preparation. Presented a guest lecture on the Order Chiroptera. Nominated for an EEB Excellence in Student Teaching Award for contributions to laboratory.

#### **Science Camp Teaching Assistant**

Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum Science Camp, Ann Arbor, Michigan  
May 2003 – August 2003

Assisted with teaching science classes for elementary and middle school students. Helped prepare lesson plans and educational materials.

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## **OUTREACH**

### **Elementary Outreach Instructor**

Franklin Elementary, North Franklin, Connecticut  
October 2012

Designed and taught a lesson on the use of echolocation by bats. Lesson was taught to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders and was part of a collaborative effort by Ecology and Evolutionary Biology graduate students from the University of Connecticut to introduce adaptations of species to their environment.

### **Guest Lecturer**

University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut  
November 2011

Presented current findings of dissertation research to a The University of Connecticut Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

### **Guest Lecturer**

University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut  
November 2008 – February 2011

Presented current findings of dissertation research to a biology honors course (BIOL 1109; Topics in Modern Biology). Guest lectured for four semesters.

### **Environmental Education Teaching Assistant**

Nogal Nature and Community Project, Sarapiquí, Heredia, Costa Rica  
May 2010 – July 2010

Assisted with teaching environmental classes at elementary schools located within banana plantation communities. Designed and led a lesson on the environmental importance of bats at each school. All classes were taught in Spanish.

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## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

### **Museum Volunteer**

University of Connecticut Biological Collections, Storrs, Connecticut  
October 2010 – February 2011

Responsible for preparing specimens in the mammal collection.

### **Zoo Intern**

San Antonio Zoo, San Antonio, Texas  
May 2005 – August 2005

Performed basic duties of an animal keeper within the small mammal department, and gained an understanding of captive management and husbandry for a variety of species. Duties included food preparation, cleaning and maintenance of enclosures, and providing enrichment to animals.

**Infirmery and Caretaker Intern**

Howell Nature Center, Howell, Michigan

June 2004 – November 2004

Administered medical attention to injured Michigan wildlife, provided care for orphaned juvenile wildlife, and released rehabilitated wildlife. Cleaned cages for, fed, and provided enrichment activities for un-releasable Michigan mammals and sandhill cranes. Developed skills in raptor and mammal handling.

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**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND SERVICES****Reviewer**

Ecological Research, Acta Chiropterologica

**Societies**

Ecological Society of America, American Society of Mammalogists, Bat Conservation International

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**ADDITIONAL SKILLS**

**Computer and Technology:** Proficient in the use of Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, Windows, Internet/World Wide Web, Garmin 76S GPS, and Telemetry. Working knowledge of R, Matlab, Minitab, EstimateS, arcGIS, and ERDAS.

**Language:** Fluent in written and conversational Spanish.