

Fay-Wei Li

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EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

2026 – Associate Professor, Department of Biology, Duke University
2023 – Associate Professor, Boyce Thompson Institute
2023 – Adjunct Associate Professor, Plant Biology Section, Cornell University
2017 – 2022 Assistant Professor, Boyce Thompson Institute
2017 – 2022 Adjunct Assistant Professor, Plant Biology Section, Cornell University
2016 – 2017 Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Zurich
2015 – 2016 Postdoctoral Researcher, UC Berkeley
2010 – 2015 Ph.D., Department of Biology, Duke University
2009 – 2010 Tank platoon commander/Ammunition officer, 2nd lieutenant, ROC Army, Taiwan
2005 – 2009 B.S., Department of Life Science, National Taiwan University

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (lab members in bold)

Robison, T.A.*, Y. Mao*, Z.G. Oh*, **W.S.L. Ang***, D.H. Loh, Y.-H. Hsieh, M. Ceminsky, N. Atkinson, D. Lafferty, X. Xu, L.H. Gunn#, A.J. McCormick#, F.-W. Li#. An unconventional Rubisco Small Subunit underpins the CO₂-concentrating organelle in land plants. **Science**, in press.

*Equally contributed; #Corresponding authors

Li, F.-W. and **J.S. Suissa**. 2025. *Ferns - Lessons in Survival from Earth's Most Adaptable Plants*, Illustrated by Laura Silburn. Hardie Grant Publishing.

Robison, T.A., Z.G. Oh, **D. Lafferty**, **X. Xu**, J.C.A. Villarreal, L.H. Gunn#, **F.-W. Li#**. 2025. Hornworts reveal a spatial model for pyrenoid-based CO₂-concentrating mechanisms in land plants. **Nature Plants** 11: 63–73.

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Schafran, P.#, **D.A. Hauser**, **J.M. Nelson**, **X. Xu**, L.A. Mueller, S. Kulshrestha, I. Smalley, S. de Vries, I. Irisarri, J. de Vries, K. Davies, J.C.A. Villarreal, **F.-W. Li#**. 2025. Pan-phylum genomes of hornworts reveal conserved autosomes but dynamic accessory and sex chromosomes. **Nature Plants** 11: 49–62.

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Oh, Z.G., **T.A. Robison**, **D.H. Loh**, **W.S.L. Ang**, J. Ng, **F.-W. Li#**, L.H. Gunn#. 2024. A synthetic biology window to probe hornwort Rubisco divergent biogenesis requirements and kinetics. **Molecular Plant** 17: 1833–1849.

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Lafferty, D.C., **T.A. Robison**, **A. Gunadi**, **P.W. Schafran**, L.H. Gunn, J. Van Eck, **F.-W. Li**. 2024. Biolistic-mediated transformation of hornworts and its application to study pyrenoid protein localization. **Journal of Experimental Botany** 75: 4760–4771.

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Leebens-Mack, **F.-W. Li**#, L. Wang#. 2024. Extraordinary preservation of gene collinearity over three hundred million years revealed in homosporous lycophytes. **Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA** 121: e2312607121.

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Li, **F.-W.** 2023. The chromosome hoarding syndrome of (some) ferns and lycophytes. **Nature Reviews Genetics** 24: 735–737.

Rahmatpour, **N.**, **L.-Y. Kuo**, J. Kang, E. Herman, L. Lei, M. Li, S. Srinivasan, R. Z, S.M. Wolniak, C. Delwiche, S. Mount, **F.-W. Li**. 2023. Analyses of *Marsilea vestita* genome and transcriptomes do no support widespread intron retention during spermatogenesis. **New Phytologist** 237: 1490–1494.

Huang, X.* , W. Wang*, T. Gong*, **D. Wickell***, L.-Y. Kuo, X. Zhang, J. Wen, H. Kim, F. Lu, H. Zhao, S. Chen, H. Li, W. Wu, C. Yu, S. Chen, W. Fan, S. Chen, X. Bao, L. Li, D. Zhang, L. Jiang, X. Yan, Z. Liao, G. Zhou, Y. Guo, J. Ralph, R.R. Sederoff, H. Wei#, P. Zhu#, **F.-W. Li**#, R. Ming#, Q. Li#. 2022. The flying spider-monkey tree fern genome provides insights into fern evolution and arborescence. **Nature Plants** 8: 500–512.

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Wang, P. K.I. Wilhelmsson, P.G. Wolf, X. Xu, J.P. Der, H. Schluempmann, G.K.-S. Wong, and K.M. Pryer. 2018. Fern genomes elucidate land plant evolution and cyanobacterial symbioses. **Nature Plants** 4: 460–472. [Cover](#)

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COMPLETE PUBLICATION LIST (lab members in **bold**)

IN REVIEW

Suissa, J., **P. Schafran**, G. Jimenez Aleman, J. Wegrzyn, C. Webster, **F.-W. Li**. Heterotopy and exaptation of stomata as one route to nectary evolution in ferns. in review.

Rizzieri, Y.C., P. Limpanasittichai, F. Hernández, J.I. Mendez-Reneau, S.D. Holt Jr., B. Sutherland, T. Mandáková, J.B. Beck⁸, L.-Y. Kuo, N.J. Kooyers, **F.-W. Li**[#], E.M. Sigel[#]. The dynamic genomes of *Salvinia* reshape our understanding of fern chromosome evolution. in review.

#Corresponding authors

2026

Robison, T.A.*, Y. Mao*, Z.G. Oh*, **W.S.L. Ang***, D.H. Loh, Y.-H. Hsieh, M. Ceminsky, N. Atkinson, D. Lafferty, X. Xu, L.H. Gunn[#], A.J. McCormick[#], **F.-W. Li**[#]. An unconventional Rubisco Small Subunit underpins the CO₂-concentrating organelle in land plants. **Science**, in press.

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Ang, W.S.L., **A. Lipari**, Z.G. Oh, **Y.-H. Hsieh**, **F.-W. Li**. 2026. Nitroxysomes as a potential solution for engineering biological nitrogen fixation. **ACS Synthetic Biology**, in press.

Uveges, B., K.L. Sparks, **W.S. Ang**, H. Monti, **F.-W. Li**, J.P. Sparks. Contamination of commercial 15N₂: potential impacts on nitrogen fixation assays and a simple method for quantification. **Isotopes in Environmental & Health Studies**, in press.

2025

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Schafraan, P.#, **D.A. Hauser**, **J.M. Nelson**, **X. Xu**, L.A. Mueller, S. Kulshrestha, I. Smalley, S. de Vries, I. Irisarri, J. de Vries, K. Davies, J.C.A. Villarreal, **F.-W. Li**#. 2025. Pan-phylum genomes of hornworts reveal conserved autosomes but dynamic accessory and sex chromosomes. **Nature Plants** 11: 49–62.

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Ang, W.S.L.*, M.M. Blaszyński*, J.B. Cai*, L.M. Markowitz*, E.A. Maunders*, A. Norlin*, H.R. Womack*, **F.-W. Li**. 2025. Genome sequences of two Nostoc strains isolated from hornworts. **Microbiology Resource Announcements**, 14: e01118-24.

*Course participants of Molecular and Cell Biology of Symbiosis at Marine Biological Laboratory

Pelosi, J.A., R. Davenport, L.-Y. Kuo, L.N. Gray, A.J. Dant, E.H. Kim, **F.-W. Li**, K.M. Dlugosch, T.J. Krabbenhoft, W.B. Barbazuk, and E.B. Sessa. 2025. The genome of the fern *Lygodium microphyllum* highlights genomic and functional differences between life phases of an invasive plant. **Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA** 122: e2504773122.

Song, M.J.*#, **Y.C. Rizzieri***, **F.-W. Li*#**, F. Freund, M. Escalona, E. Toffelmier, C. Miller, H.B. Shaffer, O. Nguyen, M.P.A. Marimuthu, N. Chumchim, C.M. Tribble, C.W. Fairbairn, W. Seligmann, C.J. Rothfels. 2025. The genome assembly of the duckweed fern, *Azolla caroliniana*. **Journal of Heredity** esaf022.

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Song, M.J., F. Freund, C.M. Tribble, E. Toffelmier, C. Miller, H.B. Shaffer, **F.-W. Li**, C.J. Rothfels. 2025. The nitrogen-fixing fern *Azolla* has a complex microbiome characterized by multiple modes of transmission. **American Journal of Botany** 112: e70010.

Song, M.J., C.M. Tribble, I. Gonzalez-Ramirez, F. Freund, **F.-W. Li**, C.J. Rothfels. 2025. Landscape genomics and demography of California *Azolla*. **Madroño** 72:162–168.

Peñaloza-Bojacá, G., J.G. Burleigh, A. Maciel-Silva, D.C. Cargill, D. Bell, E.B. Sessa, **F.-W. Li**, S.F. McDaniel, E.C. Davis, L. Endara, N. Salazar, **P. Schafraan**, S. Chantanaorrapint, J. Duckett, S. Pressel, C. Solís-Lemus, K. Renzaglia, J.C. Villarreal. 2025. Ancient reticulation, incomplete lineage sorting and the evolution of the pyrenoid at the dawn of hornwort diversification. **Annals of Botany** mcaf002.

Suwanmala, O., J.C. Villarreal A., **F.-W. Li**, S. Chantanaorrapint. 2025. *Phaeoceros perpusillus* var. *scabrellus* (Notothyladaceae, Anthocerotophyta), a new taxon from northern Thailand. **Phytokeys** 244: 271–283.

2024

Suissa, J.S., **F.-W. Li**, C.S. Moreau. 2024. Convergent evolution of nectaries in ferns and the co-option of ant bodyguards from flowering plants. **Nature Communications** 15: 4392.

Oh, Z.G., **T.A. Robison**, **D.H. Loh**, **W.S.L. Ang**, J. Ng, **F.-W. Li**#, L.H. Gunn#. 2024. A synthetic biology window to probe hornwort Rubisco divergent biogenesis requirements and kinetics. **Molecular Plant** 17: 1833–1849.

#Corresponding authors

Li, C.* , **D. Wickell***, **L.-Y. Kuo**, X. Chen, B. Nie , X. Liao, D. Peng, J. Ji, J. Jenkins, M. Williams, S. Shu, C. Plott, K. Barry, S. Rajasekar, J. Grimwood, X. Han, S. Sun, Z. Hou, W. He, G. Dai, C. Sun, J. Schmutz , J.H. Leebens-Mack, **F.-W. Li#**, L. Wang#. 2024. Extraordinary preservation of gene collinearity over three hundred million years revealed in homosporous lycophytes. **Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA** 121: e2312607121.

*Equally contributed; #Corresponding authors

Wickell, D., J. Landis, E. Zimmer. **F.-W. Li**. 2024. Population genomics of the *Isoetes appalachiana* (Isoetaceae) complex supports a ‘diploids-first’ approach to conservation. **Annals of Botany** 133: 261–272.

Lafferty, D.C., **T.A. Robison**, **A. Gunadi**, P.W. Schafran, L.H. Gunn, J. Van Eck, **F.-W. Li**. 2024. Biolistic-mediated transformation of hornworts and its application to study pyrenoid protein localization. **Journal of Experimental Botany** 65: 243.

Feng, X., J. Zheng, I. Irisarri, H. Yu, B. Zheng, Z. Ali, S. de Vries, J. Keller, J.M.R. Fürst-Jansen, A. Dadras, J.M.S. Zegers, T.P. Rieseberg, A.D. Ashok, T. Darienko, M.J. Bierenbroodspot, L. Gramzow, R. Petroll, F.B. Haas, N. Fernandez-Pozo, O. Nousias, T. Li, E. Fitzek, W.S. Grayburn, N. Rittmeier, C. Permann, F. Rümpler, J. M. Archibald, G. Theißen, J. P. Mower, M. Lorenz, H. Buschmann, K. von Schwartzberg, L. Boston, R.D. Hayes, C. Daum, K. Barry, I.V. Grigoriev, X. Wang, **F.-W. Li**, S.A. Rensing, J.B. Ari, N. Keren, A. Mosquna, A. Holzinger, P.-M. Delaux, C. Zhang, J. Huang, M. Mutwil, J. de Vries, Y. Yin. 2024. Chromosome-level genomes of multicellular algal sisters to land plants illuminate signaling network evolution. **Nature Genetics** 56: 1018–1031.

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Rahmatpour, N., **L.-Y. Kuo**, J. Kang, E. Herman, L. Lei, M. Li, S. Srinivasan, R. Z, S.M. Wolniak, C. Delwiche, S. Mount, **F.-W. Li**. 2023. Analyses of *Marsilea vestita* genome and transcriptomes do not support widespread intron retention during spermatogenesis. **New Phytologist** 237: 1490–1494.

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Jiang, H.-W., H.-Y. Wu, C.-H. Wang, C.-H. Yang, J.-T. Ko, H.-C. Ho, M.-D. Tsai, D. Bryant, **F.-W. Li**, M.-C. Ho. M.-Y. Ho. A relict phycobilisome structure discovered from a thylakoid-free cyanobacterium. **Nature Communications** 14: 8009.

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de Vries, S., C. Herrfurth, **F.-W. Li**, I. Feussner, J. de Vries. 2023. An ancient route towards salicylic acid and its implications for the perpetual *Trichormus–Azolla* symbiosis. **Plant, Cell & Environment** 46: 2884–2908.

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*Summer REU student

2022

Huang, X.*, W. Wang*, T. Gong*, **D. Wickell***, L.-Y. Kuo, X. Zhang, J. Wen, H. Kim, F. Lu, H. Zhao, S. Chen, H. Li, W. Wu, C. Yu, S. Chen, W. Fan, S. Chen, X. Bao, L. Li, D. Zhang, L. Jiang, X. Yan, Z. Liao, G. Zhou, Y. Guo, J. Ralph, R.R. Sederoff, H. Wei#, P. Zhu#, **F.-W. Li#**, R. Ming#, Q. Li#. 2022. The flying spider-monkey tree fern genome provides insights into fern evolution and arborescence. **Nature Plants** 8: 500–512.

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Petlewski, A.R., A. Patterson*, F.-W. Li. 2022. Characterizing culturable bacterial endophytes of five Lycopodiaceae species. **American Fern Journal** 112: 79–92.

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Szövényi, P., **A. Gunadi, F.-W. Li.** 2021. Charting the genomic landscape of seed-free plants. **Nature Plants** 7: 554–565.

Li, F.-W. 2021. Decolonizing botanical genomics. **Nature Plants** 7: 1542–1543.

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FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2025 Emerging Leader Award, Botanical Society of America
- 2023 Humboldt Research Fellowship, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
- 2016 Forschungskredit postdoc fellowship, University of Zurich
- 2015 Perry Price (best thesis in plant science), Duke University
- 2014 Edgar T. Wherry Award, Botanical Society of America
- 2014 NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant
- 2012 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship

FUNDING

LEAD PI ON 5 FEDERAL GRANTS TOTALING \$4,758,694 (\$2,908,166 TO BTI)

Pending

USDA Foundational Knowledge of Plant Products | **Characterizing the cannabinoid biosynthesis pathway in the liverwort *Radula obconica***

\$645,155

PI: Fay-Wei Li

NSF IOS Plant-Biotic Interactions | **Decoding the initial chemical signals in plant-cyanobacteria symbiosis**

\$842,187

PI: Fay-Wei Li

NSF IOS LIFE | **Hornworts as a new model lineage to study the evolution of plant sexual reproduction**

\$610,573

PI: Fay-Wei Li, Michael Scanlon (Cornell Plant Biology)

Current

NSF DEB PURSUIT | **Uncovering the hidden diversity of Gloeobacteria, an enigmatic lineage crucial for understanding the early evolution of cyanobacteria (2426285)**

\$1,063,529 (2024.8.1 – 2027.7.31), Li portion: \$595,531

PI: Fay-Wei Li, Christy Grettenberger (University of California Davis)

NSF MCB Cellular Dynamics and Function | **From phylogeny to biomolecules: a cross-scale approach to understand the making of a unique carbon-concentrating mechanism in hornworts (2213841)**

\$1,072,924 (2022.6.1 – 2025.5.31), Li portion: \$503,654

PI: Fay-Wei Li, Laura Gunn (Cornell Plant Biology)

Corteva Agriscience | **Screening of insecticidal proteins from seed-free plants**

\$ cannot be disclosed

PI: Fay-Wei Li

Triad Foundation | **Nitroxysome as a solution for engineering nitrogen-fixing plants**

\$74,372

PI: Fay-Wei Li

DOE Basic Energy Sciences | **Powering the CO₂ concentrating mechanism: role and molecular principles of photosynthetic electron flow microdomains**

\$948,413, Li portion: \$234,698

PI: Adrien Burlacot (Carnegie Science), Co-PI Fay-Wei Li

Hypothesis Fund | **Reimagine photosynthesis with hornworts**

\$200,000

PI: Laura Gunn (Cornell Plant Biology), Fay-Wei Li

Completed

NSF IOS EDGE | **Developing transformation capacity for *Anthoceros agrestis* to facilitate gene function studies in hornworts, a remarkable phylum of plants** (1923011)

\$548,419 (2019.9.1 – 2024.8.31)

PI: Fay-Wei Li, Co-PI: Joyce Van Eck (BTI)

NSF DEB Dimensions of Biodiversity | **Integrating phylogenetics, ecophysiology, and transcriptomics to understand the diversity of hornwort-cyanobacterium symbiosis** (1831428)

\$1,830,855 (2019.1.1 – 2024.12.31), Li portion: \$1,191,078

PI: Fay-Wei Li, John Meeks (University of California Davis), Jed Sparks (Cornell EEB)

Supplement #1 | Research Experience for Post-Baccalaureate Students (2139576)

\$40,750

Supplement #2 | Research Collaboration Opportunity in Europe (2034018)

\$27,005

DOE Large-Scale EMSL Research User Grant | **Understanding the genetic and structural bases of hornworts' carbon-concentrating mechanism**

\$118,888 in-kind support (2021.10.1 – 2023.9.30)

PI: Fay-Wei Li

Triad Foundation | **Understanding how ferns can withstand extreme desiccation**

\$100,000 (2021.9.1 – 2022.8.31)

PI: Fay-Wei Li, Sally Chambers (Marie Selby Botanical Gardens)

Triad Foundation | **An "EPYC" quest to search for the Rubisco tether protein in hornwort pyrenoids**

\$59,125 (2021.7.1 – 2022.6.30)

PI: Fay-Wei Li, Joyce Van Eck and Aleksandra Skirycz

Triad Foundation | **Biosynthesis of cannabinoids in liverworts**

\$75,000 (2020.9.1 – 2021.8.31)

PI: Fay-Wei Li, Georg Jander, Frank Schroeder

INVITED SEMINARS AND SIGNIFICANT MEETING PRESENTATIONS

2026 **John Innes Centre**

2025 **Harvard University**, Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology

2025 **Michigan State University**, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

2025 **National Taiwan University**, Department of Life Science

2025 **International Symposium on Genomics, Evolution and Biodiversity**, keynote speaker

2024 **Gregor Mendel Institute of Molecular Plant Biology**, Vienna, Austria

2024 **CNRS Laboratoire de Recherche en Sciences Végétales**, Toulouse, France

2024 **University of Münster**, Institute of Plant Biology and Biotechnology

2024 **University of Göttingen**, Albrecht-von-Haller-Institute for Plant Sciences, Germany

2024 **University of Connecticut**, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

2024 **Corteva Agriscience**

- 2024 **University of Edinburgh**, Institute of Molecular Plant Sciences
- 2023 **Friedrich Schiller University Jena**, Institute of Ecology and Evolution
- 2023 **Botany 2023**, Colloquium *Attack of the (haploid) clones: the resurgence of gametophyte biology across land plants*
- 2023 **Gordon Research Conference**, “Chloroplast Biotechnology”, Ventura Beach, CA
- 2023 **University of Arizona**, Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
- 2022 **EMBO Workshop**, “An integrated view of early land plant evolution”, Bhubaneswar, India
- 2022 **University of British Columbia**, Department of Botany
- 2022 **Plant Genome Online**, keynote speaker
- 2021 **Louisiana State University**, Department of Biological Sciences
- 2021 **University of Maryland**, UMD Plant Virtual Minisymposium
- 2021 **University of California Davis**, Photosynthesis Mini-Symposium
- 2021 **Laboratoire Reproduction et Développement des Plantes**, Lyon
- 2021 **University of Göttingen**, Institute for Microbiology and Genetics
- 2020 **Oxford University**, Oxford University Biological Society
- 2020 **Botany 2020**, Colloquium *Mechanisms of rapid adaptation through the expression of “heterogenomicity”*
- 2020 **Ithaca College**, Department of Biology
- 2019 **Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History** (Botany), Washington DC
- 2019 **Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History** (“Phylopizza”), Washington DC
- 2019 **Marine Biological Laboratory**, Woods Hole, MA
- 2018 **Harvard University**, Herbarium Seminar Series
- 2018 **EMBO Workshop**, “New shores in land plant evolution”, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2018 **National Tsing Hua University** (Taiwan), Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology
- 2018 **7th Asian Symposium of Ferns and Lycophyte**, Keynote speaker, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2017 **University of Rochester**, Department of Biology
- 2017 **Arizona State University**, The Life Science Cafe seminar series
- 2017 **Iowa State University**, Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology
- 2017 **Chicago Plant Science Symposium**
- 2017 **Cornell University**, Plant Biology Section
- 2016 **Utrecht University**, Institute of Environmental Biology
- 2016 **University of Zurich**, Department of Systematic and Evolutionary Botany
- 2016 **Université Laval**, Institute for Integrative Systems Biology
- 2016 **Yale University**, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
- 2015 **North Carolina State University**, Plant & Microbial Biology Seminar

TEACHING

Main Instructor

Molecular and Cell Biology of Symbiosis,

Marine Biological Laboratory

2023 – 2024

For graduate students and postdocs. I gave lectures and led lab projects symbiosis in plants.

Concepts and Techniques in Plant Biology (PLBIO 6831), Cornell University <i>Graduate-level course.</i>	2023
Problems in Plant Biology (PLBIO 7410), Cornell University <i>Graduate-level seminar course.</i>	2022 – 2025
Plant Comparative and Evolutionary Genomics (PLBIO 7420), Cornell University <i>Graduate-level course.</i>	2018
Practical Phylogenetics , Duke University <i>Graduate-level course, co-taught with Dave Swofford.</i>	2014

Guest Lectures

CSI: Forensic Botany (PLSCI 11500), Cornell University <i>One lecture on the use of bryophytes in forensics</i>	2023 – 2025
Introductory Plant Diversity and Evolution (PLBIO 2410), Cornell University <i>One lecture on bryophyte diversity</i>	2022 – 2023
Vascular Plant Systematics (PLBIO 2480), Cornell University <i>Two lectures on the biology of algae, bryophytes, lycophytes, and ferns</i>	2020 – 2022
Problems in Plant Biology (PLBIO 7410), Cornell University <i>One lecture around a paper of interest</i>	2017 – 2025
Medical Ethnobotany (PLBIO 1100), Cornell University <i>One lecture on the medicinal use of ferns</i>	2017 – 2020
Topics in Plant Evolution (PLBIO 6560), Cornell University <i>Weekly paper discussion</i>	2017 – 2020
Faculty Research (PLBIO 7430), Cornell University <i>One lecture about my research program to the first-year graduate students</i>	2017 – 2019
Principles of Biology (BIO 110), SUNY Cortland <i>One lecture about seed-free plants</i>	2022

MENTORING*Graduate Students Advised*

Yanã Rizzieri	Cornell Plant Biology	2023-present
Tanner Robison	Cornell Plant Biology	2019-present
David Wickell	Cornell Plant Biology	2018-2023
Alaina Petlewski	Cornell Plant Biology	2017-2021

Postdoctoral Researchers Advised

Peter Schafran	2019-present
Warren Ang	2022-2025; Now Senior Scientist at GeneScript
Declan Lafferty	2022-present (co-advised with Joyce Van Eck, BTI); now Research Support Officer at University of Melbourne
Guillermo J. Aleman	2022-present (co-advised with Georg Jander, BTI); now Assistant Professor at New Jersey Institute of Technology
Jacob Suissa	2022-2023 (co-advised with Corrie Moreau, Cornell EEB); now Assistant Professor at University of Tennessee Knoxville

Andika Gunadi	2019-2021 (co-advised with Joyce Van Eck, BTI); now Plant Transformation and Genome-editing Scientist, J.R. Simplot Company
Nasim Nahmatpour	2019-2021; now Bioinformatics Scientist, Analytical Biosciences
Jessica Nelson	2017-2019; now Lecturer of Biology, Maastricht University (Netherlands)
Li-Yaung Kuo	2017-2019; now Assistant Professor, National Tsing Hua University (Taiwan)

Awards Received by Students

Yanã Rizzieri	Bill Dahl Graduate Research Award, Botanical Society of America (\$1,500)
Yanã Rizzieri	Nathalie S. Nagalingum Graduate Student Research Award, American Fern Society (\$1,500)
Yanã Rizzieri	Phycological Society of America Grants-in-Aid (\$1,500)
David Wickell	Smithsonian Graduate Student Fellowship, National Museum of Natural History (\$8,000)
David Wickell	Washington Biologists Field Club Research Awards (\$4,035)
David Wickell	Schmittau-Novak Integrative Plant Science Small Grants, Cornell (\$3,992)
Tanner Robison	Schmittau-Novak Integrative Plant Science Small Grants, Cornell (\$4,207)
Alaina Petlewski	R.C. Lewontin Early Award, Society for the Study of Evolution (\$2,500)
Alaina Petlewski	Andrew W. Mellon Student Research Grant, Cornell (\$780)
Alaina Petlewski	American Society of Plant Taxonomists Graduate Student Research Grant (\$1,200)

Awards Received by Postdocs

Jacob Suissa	NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (Rules of Life track)
Sylvia Kinosian	NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (Plant Genome track)
Peter Schafran	NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (Plant Genome track)

Dissertation/Exam Committee

Dan Hong Loh	Cornell Plant Biology	Advisor: Laura Gunn
Ryan Thummel	Cornell Plant Biology	Advisor: Alejandra Gandolfo
Ayress Grinage	Cornell Plant Biology	Advisor: Chelsea Specht
Joseph Cammarata	Cornell Plant Biology	Advisor: Michael Scanlon & Adrienne Roeder
Heather Phillips	Cornell Plant Biology	Advisor: Chelsea Specht
Thereis Choo	Cornell Plant Biology	Advisor: Kevin Nixon
Michael Song	UC Berkeley IB	Advisor: Carl Rothfels
Nikolai Hay	Duke Biology	Advisor: Kathleen Pryer
Blake Fauskee	Duke Biology	Advisor: Kathleen Pryer
Ariana Eily	Duke Biology	Advisor: Kathleen Pryer
Rizky Kafrawi	Hobart and William Smith Colleges	Advisor: Shannon Straub

Undergraduate/High School Students Advised

Alexander Fenlon	Arizona State University	2024
Isabel Smalley	University of Minnesota	2023
Evan Smith	University of Notre Dame	2023
Jenna Sins	Gannon University	2022

August Lipari	Grinnell College	2022
Makaila Weir	Ohio Wesleyan University	2021
Isa Johnson	Ohio Wesleyan University	2021
Ariel Patterson	Reeds College	2019 (Best poster; BTI REU symposium)
Victor Cai	Duke University	2019
Marazzano Colon	Duke University	2018
Harry Hou	Kimball Union Academy	2018

Other Contributions and Interactions

Graduate student admission committee, Plant Biology Field, Cornell University (2024)
 Graduate student recruitment committee, Plant Biology Field, Cornell University (2023)
 Graduate student recruitment committee, Plant Biology Field, Cornell University (2019)
 Graduate student admission committee, Plant Biology Field, Cornell University (2018)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Society Service

2025 President-elect, American Fern Society

Public Outreach

2023 **Let's Botanize**, "Hornworts!"

Collaboration with Let's Botanize (>129K followers on Instagram) to introduce hornworts. Recording.

2021 **Art at BTI**, "Dead Plant Wisdom: Exploring identity, colonialism and climate change through art and herbaria"

Conversation with Zachari Logan and AJ Bouchie. Recording.

2020 **Fundraising campaign for Cayuga Lake harmful algal bloom research**

Working closely with Aly Evans to put together a fundraising proposal. We held four info sessions to engage with the local communities and pitch the project idea.

2020 **BTI Breaking Ground Discussion Series**, "Spooky Plants"

Recording.

2019 **Finger Lakes Native Plant Society**, "Ferntastic Ferns and Lycophytes"

Talked about the natural history of ferns and lycophytes.

2019 **Science on Screen: Little shop of horrors**

Gave a pre-show presentation "Killer Plants!" in Cinemapolis as a part of the Science on Screen program. Recording.

2018 **Sciencenter After Dark: Wicked Plants**

Engage with the public with hands-on activities

2018 **Sciencenter Members' Night**, "Wicked ferns—Ferns that killed the early Australian explorers"

The opening talk for the Wicked Plants exhibition. 75% of the audience were children.

2018 **Judy's Day** at Cornell Botanic Gardens

My lab has two booths: "Ferntastic Azolla and Lycophytes" and "Amazing Bryophytes". Jessica Nelson (postdoc) did several botanical drawings for the stickers, and I helped make sure the tree of life figure (this year's theme) is correct

2018 **Workshop on Pteridophyte Reproductive Biology** at Dr. Cecilia Koo Botanic Conservation Center (Taiwan)

A training workshop for researchers in Southeast Asia. I gave a lecture on “High-level classification of ferns and lycophytes”

- 2018 **NSF INCLUDE** at Cornell University, “Biodiversity!”
To high school students from underserved school districts
- 2017 **Ithaca Garden Club**, “Ferntastic ferns and where to find them”
To members of the garden club
- 2017 **NSF INCLUDE** at Cornell University, “Biodiversity!”
To high school students from underserved school districts
- 2017 **Art at BTI**, “Tamed Wonders: Ferns and humans as seen from the BTI atrium”
To artists and art-lovers; [video recording](#)
- 2017 **BTI Giving Tuesday Livestream**
Live video interview with Keith Hannon
- 2017 **Fascination of Plants Day Livestream**
Live video interview with Keith Hannon
- 2017 **BTI Science Bomb Podcast**
Audio interview with Keith Hannon

Media Appearance

- 2025 Radio interview by KPCW (NPR affiliate) *This Green Earth*
- 2025 Radio interview by Canadian National Radio
- 2023 Quoted by Science “[Fern proteins fight crop pests, could usher in potent new insecticides](#)”
- 2022 Interviewed and featured by New Scientist “[Horizontal gene transfer happens more often than anyone thought](#)”
- 2022 Quoted by New Scientist “[Genes from bacteria may have helped plants colonise the land](#)”
- 2022 Quoted by Nature Plants Research Briefing “[The evolutionary mechanisms of mycoheterotrophic orchids](#)”
- 2019 Quoted by The Mercury News “[Genetic code for California’s iconic trees uncovered](#)”

Editorial Service

- 2018 – 2023 **Associate Editor**, Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution (handled 74 manuscripts)
- 2021 – 2023 **Associate Editor**, American Fern Journal (handled 2 manuscript)

Symposium/workshop Organizer

- 2022 **Botany 2022 workshop: *de novo* genome Assembly and Annotation with an Emphasis on Phylogenetic and Population Genetic Studies**, co-organized with Suzy Strickler and Jacob Landis
- 2021 **Hornworts: the Next Generation**, Bryophytes and Lichens BL2021 (virtual)
- 2021 **Botany 2021 workshop: *de novo* genome Assembly and Annotation with an Emphasis on Phylogenetic and Population Genetic Studies**, co-organized with Suzy Strickler and Jacob Landis (virtual)
- 2020 **Botany 2020 workshop: *de novo* genome Assembly and Annotation with an Emphasis on Phylogenetic and Population Genetic Studies**, co-organized with Suzy Strickler and Jacob Landis (virtual)
- 2017 **Plant genome evolution from the very beginning**, co-organized with Charles Delwiche (University of Maryland), XIX International Botanical Congress, Shenzhen, China

Grant Proposal Reviewer

Academia Sinica Thematic Research Program (Taiwan), American Society of Plant Taxonomists Graduate Student Research Grants, Czech Science Foundation (x2), Dutch Research Council, European Research Council, National Science Foundation (x2), Society for the Study of Evolution Rosemary Grant Awards, Society of Systematic Biologists Graduate Student Research Awards, Swiss National Science Foundation, The Royal Society University Research Fellowship (UK)

Journal Reviewer

Nature Plants (x12), Nature Communications (x6), Nature Ecology and Evolution, Nature Genetics, Science Advances, PNAS (x7), Current Biology (x2), New Phytologist (x9), Molecular Plant, Plant Cell, Plant Communications, Plant Journal (x3), Molecular Biology and Evolution (x2), Genome Biology, ISME J (x2), Genome Biology and Evolution (x2), American Journal of Botany (x3), American Fern Journal (x2), Annals of Botany (x2), Applications in Plant Sciences (x2), BMC Evolutionary Biology, BMC Plant Biology, BMC Research Notes, Current Genetics, Frontiers in Plant Science (x2), GigaScience (x2), Heredity, Horticulture Research, Journal of Molecular Evolution, Journal of Systematics and Evolution, Molecular Ecology Resources, Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution (x4), PeerJ, Phytotaxa (x2), Plant and Cell Physiology, Plant Systematics and Evolution (x3), Plants People Planet, Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology, Scientific Reports (x3), Symbiosis, Systematic Botany, Taxon