

Margaurete Anne Romero, MS

Personal Information

Work Address: Dabney Hall
1416 Circle Dr.
Knoxville, TN 37996

Department Phone: 865.974.3065
Email: mromero4@vols.utk.edu

Educational Background

University of Tennessee, Knoxville (August 2016 – Present) Knoxville, TN
Doctoral Student (PhD) Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Emphasis on Education

University of South Florida (August 2013 – December 2016) Tampa, FL
Master of Science in Biology

Thesis Research: Comparing Game Simulation to Concept Models for Student-Centered Learning in Biology

Saint Leo University (August 2007 – April 2011) Saint Leo, FL
Bachelor of Science in Biology and Environmental Science, *Magna cum Laude*

Positions

University of Tennessee: Program for Excellence and Equity in Research Fellow (August 2016 – July 2018)

Knoxville, TN

Supervisor: Dr. Sekeenia Haynes

- Serving as fellowship for underrepresented students for first two years of PhD program
- Participant in weekly discourse meetings
- Participated in professional development workshops
- Presented at Cynthia B. Peterson Poster Competition

University of South Florida: Research Assistant (August 2014 – July 2016)

Tampa, FL

Supervisor: Dr. Luanna Prevost

- Assisted developing a storyboard about food webs for a computerized game for grades 6-8 graders called “Air Potato Invaders”
- Designed 5E (instruction model based on constructive learning) lesson plans for life science curriculum for grades 6-8
- Coded student written responses for an Automated Analysis of Constructed Response question (AACR) on matter and energy flow
- Trained computer modeling for automated grading of question on matter and energy flow and presented
- Presented data at conferences

- Learned and implemented the Classroom Observation Protocol in Undergraduate STEM (COPUS); used this instrument to collect data on classroom practices

McGuire Center for Lepidoptera & Biodiversity: Assistant Curator (June 2013 – August 2013)
Gainesville, FL

Supervisor: Dr. Andrew Warren

- Pinned and organized Lepidoptera specimens
- Volunteered as a staff member at the Lepidoptera Society Annual Conference

Saint Leo University: Learning Resource Center Professional Tutor (October 2011 – April 2013)
Saint Leo, FL

Supervisor: Shannon Greer, MA

- Assisted students in understanding material in lower-level biology and chemistry courses
- Implemented standard techniques of Supplemental Instruction (SI) and Peer-Led Team Learning (PLTL) to increase understanding

Cedar Creek Ecological Science Reserve: Research Intern (June 2012 – August 2012)
East Bethel, MN

Supervisor: Colleen Satyshur, MS

- Sorted and identified insect specimens for ongoing bioenergy research
- Participated in professional development workshops
- Conducted a research project – Pollinator Preference in Nitrogen Deposition Plots – and presented the data at a research symposium

Saint Leo University: Laboratory Assistant (August 2007 – June 2011)
Saint Leo, FL

Supervisor: Linda Bergen-Losee, MS

- Set-up microbial cultures and chemical solutions for laboratory instruction
- Helped answer student questions and enforced safety regulations
- EPA and DOT certified

Harvard Forest: Undergraduate Research Intern (May 2010 – August 2010)
Petersham, MA

Supervisor: Dr. Shannon Pelini

- Collected insect specimens and observation data for ongoing project in global warming effects on ant species
- Participated in professional development workshops
- Conducted research project – How Climate Change Will Affect the Ant, Aphid, Plant Relationship – and presented the data at a research symposium

Teaching Experience

University of Tennessee, Knoxville Teaching Assistant (Fall 2018 – Present)

Introduction to Biology: Cells, Genetics, and Physiology (Non-Majors)

University of South Florida Teaching Assistant (Fall 2013 – Summer 2015)

Principles of Biology (Non-Majors)
Biology II Lab (Majors)

Saint Leo University Professional Tutor (Fall 2011 – Spring 2013)

Organic Chemistry I & II (SI)
Cellular Biology (PLTL)

Saint Leo University Laboratory Assistant (Fall 2007 – Summer 2011)

General Chemistry I & II
Zoology
Cell Biology
Botany
Mycology

Research Interests

Anxiety in the Biology classroom
Research Identity
Active Learning techniques

Presentations

MA Romero, BJ England, and EE Schussler, 2018. PASS: Persistence, Anxiety, and Student Success in Introductory Biology. Ecological Society of America Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA (INSPIRE talk)

MA Romero, BJ England, and EE Schussler, 2018. A Tale of Two Assessments... Society for the Advancement of Biology Research, Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN. (Poster)

MA Romero, BJ England, JR Brigati, and EE Schussler, 2018. Differential Anxiety of Female Students in Introductory Biology Courses. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Seminar Lightning Talk, Recruitment Symposium, Knoxville, TN (Lightning talk)

England BJ, **MA Romero**, JR Brigati, and EE Schussler. 2017. Anxiety, Active Learning, and Alienation: Potential Impacts on Student Persistence and Success. National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT), Annual Conference, St. Louis, MO. (Poster)

Romero MA, BJ England, JR Brigati, EE Schussler. 2017. Potential Impacts of Anxiety on Student Persistence and Success. Ecological Society of America, Annual Conference, Portland, OR. (Poster)

Romero MA, BJ England, JR Brigati, EE Schussler. 2017. Active Learning as a Source of Differential Anxiety for Female and Underrepresented Students in Introductory Biology Courses. Society for the Advancement of Biology Research, Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN. (Short talk)

Romero MA, BJ England, JR Brigati, EE Schussler. 2017. Active learning as a source of anxiety for underrepresented students in introductory biology courses. Cynthia B. Peterson Poster Competition, Knoxville, TN (Poster)

Romero MA, LB Prevost. 2016. Do models matter? Comparing concept mapping and simulations for student learning of ecology concepts. Society for the Advancement of Biology Research, Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN. (Poster)

Prevost, LB., K. Carter, **MA Romero**, K Martinez. 2016. Facilitating written biology assessment in large-enrollment courses using machine learning. International Conference of computer and information engineering

Prevost, LB., L. Moon-Michel, **M. Romero**, Y. Lou. 2016. Air Potato Invaders: Scenario-based Digital Games for Science Inquiry Learning and Assessment. Society for Information Technology and Teacher education International Conference. Savannah, GA. (Talk)

Romero MA, K Carter, LB Prevost. 2015. Assessing writing about matter and energy: comparing text analysis and machine learning. Society for the Advancement of Biology Research Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN. (Poster)

Romero MA, P Wragg, C Satyrshur. 2012. Pollinator Preference in Nitrogen Deposition Plots. Cedar Creek Symposium. East Bethel, MN. (Short Talk)

Romero MA, S Pelini. 2010. How Climate Change Will Affect the Ant, Aphid, Plant Relationship. Harvard Forest Symposium. Petersham, MA. (Short Talk)

Romero MA, W Ellis. 2010. Relating oyster reef (*Crassostrea virginica*) complexity to the size distribution of Xanthid crabs. Florida Academy of Science Annual Conference. Fort Pierce, FL. (Short Talk)

Awards and Honors:

University of Tennessee: Graduate Student Senate Travel Award, August 2018

University of Tennessee: Program for Excellence and Equity in Research (PEER) Fellow,
August 2016 – July 2018

East Tennessee Chapter – Society for Technical Communication Blakely Award of Merit in
Science Writing, Graduate Division, May 2018

Saint Leo University: Outstanding Environmental Senior, Saint Leo, FL, April 2011

Professional Memberships

National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT), 2016 – Present

Society for the Advancement of Biology Education Research (SABER), 2015 – Present

Ecological Society of America (ESA), 2010 – Present

Community Service

Darwin Day Social Media Coordinator (December 2018 – April 2019)
University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

Invasive Species Volunteer Educator (December 2018)
Cedar Bluff Middle School, Knoxville, TN

Salamander Ball Volunteer Scientist (October 2018)
Knoxville Zoo, Knoxville, TN

Big Orange STEM Saturday Expo Volunteer Scientist (September 2018)
Hodges Library, Knoxville, TN

Farmer's Market Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Outreach Volunteer (July 2017, May, July, August 2018)
Market Square, Knoxville, TN

SEEDS Ecological Society of America Meeting Mentor (August 2018)
New Orleans, LA

Earthfest Volunteer (April 2018)
Knoxville Botanical Gardens, Knoxville, TN

Science Olympiad Volunteer (March 2018)
University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

Bewitching Beasts Event Volunteer (October 2017)
University of Tennessee Botanical Gardens, Knoxville, TN

SEEDS Ecological Society of America Meeting Mentor (August 2017)
Portland, OR

KidsU Instructor: Forensic Science (June 2017)
University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

Tennessee Science Bowl Volunteer (February 2017)
Pellissippi State Community College, Friendsville, TN

Roots and Shoots Graduate Ambassador at Pizzo Elementary School (January 2015 – May 2016)
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

Students Engaged in Rewarding Volunteer Experiences (March 2008, 2009, 2011; Trip Leader March 2010)
Saint Leo University, Saint Leo, FL

Margaurete Romero
mromero4@vols.utk.edu

Science Fair Judge in Hillsborough County (January 2010, 2012)
St. Joseph Catholic School, Tampa, FL