

Susan Greenlee Letcher

Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies

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Education

Ph.D. 2008. University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut, USA.
Thesis title: *Structural, floristic, and phylogenetic dynamics of tropical forest stands during succession*
Advisor: Robin L. Chazdon

B.A. 2000. Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota, USA
Double major in biology and music with distinction in both majors; *summa cum laude*

Publications

Gilman, A.C., S.G. Letcher, R.M. Fincher, A.I. Perez, T.W. Madell, A.L. Finkelstein, and F. Corrales-Araya. *in press*. Recovery of floristic diversity and basal area in natural forest regeneration and planted plots in a Costa Rican wet forest. *Biotropica*.

Chazdon, R.L., E.N. Broadbent, D.M. Rozendaal, F. Bongers, A.M. Almeyda Zambrano, T.M. Aide, P. Balvanera, J.M. Becknell, V. Boukili, P.H.S. Brancalion, D. Craven, J.S. Almeida-Cortez, G.A.L. Cabral, B. de Jong, J.S. Denslow, D.H. Dent, S.J. DeWalt, J.M. Dupuy, S.M. Durán, M.M. Espírito-Santo, M.C. Fandino, R.G. César, J.S. Hall, J.L. Hernández-Stefanoni, C.C. Jakovac, A.B. Junqueira, D. Kennard, S.G. Letcher, M. Lohbeck, M. Martínez-Ramos, P. Massoca, J.A. Meave, R. Mesquita, F. Mora, R. Muñoz, R. Muscarella, Y.R.F. Nunes, S. Ochoa-Gaona, E. Orihuela-Belmonte, M. Peña-Claros, E. Pérez-García, D. Piotta, J.S. Powers, J. Rodríguez-Velazquez, I.E. Romero-Pérez, J. Ruiz, J.G. Saldarriaga, A. Sanchez-Azofeifa, N.B. Schwartz, M.K. Steininger, N.G. Swenson, M. Uriarte, M. van Breugel, H. van der Wal, M.D.M. Veloso, H. Vester, I.C.G. Vieira, T. Vizcarra Bentos, G.B. Williamson, and L. Poorter. 2016. Carbon sequestration potential of second-growth forest regeneration in the Latin American tropics. *Science Advances* 2: e1501639; DOI: 10.1126/sciadv.1501639.

Poorter, L. F. Bongers, T. M. Aide, A.M. Almeyda Zambrano, P. Balvanera, J.M. Becknell, V. Boukili, P.H.S. Brancalion, E.N. Broadbent, R.L. Chazdon, D. Craven, J.S. de Almeida-Cortez, G.A.L. Cabral, B.H.J. de Jong, J.S. Denslow, D.H. Dent, S.J. DeWalt, J.M. Dupuy, S.M. Durán, M.M. Espírito-Santo, M.C. Fandino, R.G. César, J.S. Hall, J.L. Hernandez-Stefanoni, C.C. Jakovac, A.B. Junqueira, D. Kennard, S.G. Letcher, J.-C. Licona, M. Lohbeck, E. Marín-Spiotta, M. Martínez-Ramos, Paulo Massoca, J.A. Meave, R. Mesquita, F. Mora, R. Muñoz, R. Muscarella, Y.R.F. Nunes, S. Ochoa-Gaona, A.A. de Oliveira, E. Orihuela-Belmonte, M. Peña-Claros, E.A. Pérez-García, D. Piotta, J.S., Powers, J. Rodríguez-Velázquez, I.E. Romero-Pérez, J. Ruiz, J.G. Saldarriaga, A. Sanchez-Azofeifa, N.B. Schwartz, M.K. Steininger, N.G. Swenson, M. Toledo, M. Uriarte, M. van Breugel, H. van der Wal, M.D.M. Veloso, H.F.M. Vester, A. Vicentini, I.C.G. Vieira, T. Vizcarra Bentos, G.B. Williamson, and D.M.A. Rozendaal. 2016. Biomass resilience of Neotropical secondary forests. *Nature* 530: 211–214.

Ding, Y., R. Zang, S.G. Letcher, W. Liu, and X. Lu. 2016. Aboveground and belowground competition affect seedling performance and allometry in a tropical monsoon forest. *New Forests* 47: 529–540.

Jiang, Y., R. Zang, S.G. Letcher, Y. Ding, Y. Huang, X. Lu, J. Huang, W. Liu, and Z. Zhang. 2016. Associations between plant composition/diversity and the abiotic environment across six vegetation types in a biodiversity hotspot of Hainan Island, China. *Plant and Soil* 403: 21–35.

Letcher, S.G., J.R. Lasky, R.L. Chazdon, N. Norden, S.J. Wright, J.A. Meave, E.A. Pérez-García, R. Muñoz, E. Romero-Pérez, A. Andrade, J.L. Andrade, P. Balvanera, J.M. Becknell, T.V. Bentos, R. Bhaskar, F. Bongers, V. Boukili, P.H.S. Brancalion, R.G. César, D.A. Clark, D.B. Clark, D. Craven, A. DeFrancesco, J.M. Dupuy, B. Finegan, E. González-Jiménez, J.S. Hall, K.E. Harms, J.L. Hernández-Stefanoni, P. Hietz, D. Kennard, T.J. Killeen, S.G. Laurance, E.E. Lebrija-Trejos, M. Lohbeck, M. Martínez-Ramos, P.E.S. Massoca, R.C.G. Mesquita, F. Mora, R. Muscarella, H. Paz, F. Pineda-García, J.S. Powers, R. Quesada-Monge, R.R. Rodrigues, M.E. Sandor, L. Sanaphre-Villanueva, E. Schüller, N.G. Swenson, A.Tauro, M. Uriarte, M. van Breugel, O. Vargas-Ramírez, R.A.G. Viani, A.L. Wendt, and G.B. Williamson. 2015. Environmental gradients and the evolution of successional habitat specialization: a test case with 14 Neotropical forest sites. *Journal of Ecology* 103: 1276–1290.

Slik, J.W.F., V. Arroyo-Rodríguez, S.-I.Aiba, P. Alvarez-Loayza, L.F. Alves, P. Ashton, *et al.* 2015. An estimate of the number of tropical tree species. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 112: 7472-7477.

Letcher, S.G. 2015. Patterns of liana succession in tropical forests. Pp. 116-130 in S. A. Schnitzer, F. Bongers, R. Burnham, and F. Putz, eds. *Ecology of Lianas*. Wiley-Blackwell.

DeWalt, S.J., S.A. Schnitzer, L. Alves, F. Bongers, R.J. Burnham, Z. Cai, W.P. Carson, J. Chave, G. Chuyong, D.B. Clark, F.R.C. Costa, C.E.N. Ewango, R. Gallagher, J.J. Gerwing, E. Gortaire, T. Hart., G. Ibarra-Manríquez, K. Ickes, D. Kenfack, S.G. Letcher, M.J. Macía, J.-R. Makana, A. Malizia, M. Martínez-Ramos, J. Mascaro, S. Moses, H.C. Müller-Landau, S. Muthuramkumar, C. Muthmperumal, A. Nogueira, A. Padaki, M.P.E. Parren, N. Parthasarathy, D. Pérez-Salipcrup, F.E. Putz, H. Romero-Saltos, M.S. Reddy, and D. Thomas. 2015. Biogeographic patterns in liana abundance and diversity in tropical forests. Pp. 131-146 in S. A. Schnitzer, F. Bongers, R. Burnham, and F. Putz, eds. *Ecology of Lianas*. Wiley-Blackwell.

Lu, X., R. Zang, Y. Ding, S.G. Letcher, W. Long, and Y. Huang. 2015. Variations and trade-offs in functional traits of tree seedlings during secondary succession in a tropical lowland rain forest. *Biotropica*. 46: 404-414.

Hudson, L.N., T. Newbold, S. Contu, S.L.L. Hill, I. Lysenko, A. De Palma, H.R.P. Phillips, *et al.* 2014. The PREDICTS database: a global database of how local terrestrial biodiversity responds to human impacts. *Ecology and Evolution* 4: 4701-4735.

Chazdon, R.L., B.Vilchez-Alvarado, S.G. Letcher, A. Wendt, and U.U. Sezen. 2014. Effects of human activities on successional pathways: case studies from lowland wet forests of northeastern Costa Rica. Pp. 129-139 in K.D. Morrison, S. Hecht, and C. Padoch, eds. *The Social Lives of Forests: Past, Present, and Future of Woodland Resurgence*. University of Chicago Press.

Yorke, S. R., S. A. Schnitzer, J. Mascaro, S. G. Letcher, and W. P. Carson. 2013. Increasing liana abundance and basal area in a tropical forest: the contribution of long-distance clonal colonization. *Biotropica*.45: 317-324.

Letcher, S.G., and R.L. Chazdon. 2012. Life history traits of lianas during tropical forest succession. *Biotropica* 44: 720-727.

Cayuela, L., L. Gálvez-Bravo, R. Pérez Pérez, F.S. de Albuquerque, D.J. Golicher, R.A. Zahawi, N. Ramírez-Marcial, C. Garibaldi, R. Field, J.M. Rey Benayas, M. González-Espinosa, P. Balvanera, M. Ángel Castillo, B.L. Figueroa-Rangel, D.M. Griffith, G.A. Islebe, D.L. Kelly, M. Olvera-Vargas, S.A. Schnitzer, E. Velázquez, G. Williams-Linera, S.W. Brewer, A. Camacho-Cruz, I. Coronado, B. de Jong, R. del Castillo, Í. de la Cerda, J. Fernández, W. Fonseca, L. Galindo-Jaimes, T.W. Gillespie, B. González-Rivas, J.E. Gordon, J. Hurtado, J. Linares, S.G. Letcher, S. Mangan, J.A. Meave, E.V. Méndez, V. Meza, S. Ochoa-Gaona, C.J. Peterson, V. Ruiz-Gutierrez, K.A. Snarr, F. Tun Dzul, M. Valdez-Hernández, K.M. Viergever, D.A. White, J.N. Williams, F.J. Bonet, and R. Zamora. 2012. The Tree Biodiversity Network (BIOTREE-NET): prospects for biodiversity research and conservation in the tropics. *Biodiversity and Ecology* 4: 211-224.

Cayuela, L., L. Gálvez-Bravo, F. S. de Albuquerque, D. J. Golicher, M. González-Espinosa, N. Ramírez-Marcial, J. M. Rey Benayas, R. A. Zahawi, J. A. Meave, B. M. Benito, C. Garibaldi, I. Chan, R. Pérez-Pérez, R. Field, P. Balvanera, M. A. Castillo, B. L. Figueroa-Rangel, D. M. Griffith, G. A. Islebe, D. L. Kelly, M. Olvera-Vargas, S. A. Schnitzer, E. Velasquez, G. Williams-Linera, S. W. Brewer, A. Camacho-Cruz, I. Coronado, B. de Jong, R. del Castillo, I. Granzow-de la Cerda, J. Fernández, W. Fonseca, L. Galindo-Jaimes, T. W. Gillespie, B. González-Rivas, J. E. Gordon, J. Hurtado, J. Linares, S. G. Letcher, S. A. Mangan, V. E. Méndez, V. Meza, S. Ochoa-Gaona, C. J. Peterson, V. Ruiz-Gutierrez, K. A. Snarr, F. Tun Dzul, M. Valdez-Hernández, K. M. Viergever, D. A. White, J. N. Williams, F. J. Bonet, and R. Zamora. 2012. La Red Internacional de Inventarios Forestales (BIOTREE-NET) en Mesoamérica: avances, retos y perspectivas futuras. *Ecosistemas* 21: 126-135. [Spanish version of Cayuela et al., above.]

Norden, N., S.G. Letcher, V. Boukili, N.G. Swenson, and R.L. Chazdon. 2012. Demographic drivers of successional changes in phylogenetic structure across life-history stages in tropical plant communities. *Ecology* 93:S70-S82.

Ding, Y., R. Zang, S.G. Letcher, S. Liu, and F. He. 2012. Disturbance regime changes the trait distribution, phylogenetic structure, and community assembly of tropical rain forests. *Oikos* 121: 1263-1270.

Ding, Y., R. Zang, F. He, and S.G. Letcher. 2012. Recovery of woody plant diversity in tropical rain forests in southern China after logging and shifting cultivation. *Biological Conservation* 145: 225-233.

Letcher, S.G., R.L. Chazdon, A.C.S. Andrade, F. Bongers, M. van Breugel, B. Finegan, S.G. Laurance, R.C.G. Mesquita, M. Martínez-Ramos, and G.B. Williamson. 2012. Phylogenetic community structure during succession: evidence from three Neotropical forest sites. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 14: 79-87.

Chazdon, R.L., A. Chao, R.K. Colwell, S.-Y. Lin, N. Norden, S.G. Letcher, D.B. Clark, B. Finegan, and J.P. Arroyo. 2011. A novel statistical method for classifying habitat generalists and specialists. *Ecology* 92: 1332-1343.

Shumway, S.W., Letcher, S.G., Friberg, A., and DeMelo, D. 2010. RainforestPlants: a web-based teaching tool for students of tropical biology. *Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America* 91: 257-261.

Letcher, S.G. 2010. Phylogenetic overdispersion of angiosperm communities during tropical forest succession. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* 277: 97-104.

Letcher, S.G., and R.L. Chazdon. 2009. Rapid recovery of biomass, species richness, and species composition in a forest chronosequence in northeastern Costa Rica. *Biotropica* 41: 608-617.

Letcher, S.G., and R.L. Chazdon. 2009. Lianas and self-supporting plants during tropical forest succession. *Forest Ecology and Management* 257: 2150-2156.

Chazdon, R.L., S.G. Letcher, M. van Breugel, M. Martínez-Ramos, F. Bongers, and B. Finegan. 2007. Rates of change in tree communities of secondary Neotropical forests following major disturbances. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society Series B* 362:273-289.

Palomaki, M.B., R.L. Chazdon, J.P. Arroyo, and S.G. Letcher. 2006. Juvenile tree growth in relation to light availability in second-growth tropical rain forests. *Journal of Tropical Ecology*. 22:223-226.

Letcher, S.G. 2005. Common Plant Families of La Selva Biological Station. Lulu Press, Morristown, N.C.

Miller, D.S., S. Letcher, and D.M. Barnes. 1996. Fluorescence imaging study of organic anion transport from renal proximal tubule cell to lumen. *American Journal of Physiology-Renal Fluid and Electrolyte Physiology* 40: F508-F520.

Non-academic publications

Letcher, S.G. 2016. Good news on rain forests: they bounce back strong, storing more carbon than thought. *The Conversation*, Feb. 3 2016.

Letcher, S.G. 2015. Metaphors and thresholds. Kinnickinnick, October 2015. Rachel Colwell (ed.)

Letcher, S.G. 2014. Comment on "The Mammoth Cometh," Reply All, *New York Times Magazine*, March 2, 2014. [online comment chosen for publication by the editor]

Letcher, E.L. and S.G. Letcher. 2010. *The Barefoot Sisters: Walking Home*. Stackpole Books.

Letcher, E.L. and S.G. Letcher. 2009. *The Barefoot Sisters: Southbound*. Stackpole Books.

Selected Presentations and Workshops

S.G. Letcher. April 2016. "Tropical forests in the Anthropocene: crisis and opportunity." (invited lecture) Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota.

S.G. Letcher. September 2015. "Tropical forest resilience in the Anthropocene." (invited lecture) LeMoyne College, Syracuse, New York.

S.G. Letcher, M. Duffing-Romero, L.A. Gardner, and D.A. Clark. August 2015. "Neighborhood-scale phylogenetic relatedness affects sapling survival in the dominant tree family of a Neotropical lowland wet forest." 100th annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America, Baltimore, Maryland.

S.G. Letcher, L.A. Gardner, M. Duffing-Romero, A. Muñoz, T.W. Madell, J.R. Lasky, and D.A. Clark. July 2015. "Changes in liana abundance and long-term impacts on forest dynamics: insight from a 26-year record at La Selva Biological Station." 52nd annual meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation, Honolulu, Hawaii.

Letcher, S.G. July 2013. "Tropical plant taxonomy." (invited workshop) OTS Fundamentals of Tropical Biology program, La Selva Biological Station, Costa Rica.

Letcher, S.G. and R.L. Chazdon. June 2013. "Seed dispersal syndromes of liana communities in tropical secondary forest." (invited lecture) Annual Meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation, San José, Costa Rica.

Uriarte, M., S.G. Letcher, V. Boukili, R.L. Chazdon, J.R. Lasky, and D.A. Clark. June 2013. "Which functional traits best predict climate impacts on tropical tree growth and survival?" (invited lecture) Annual Meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation, San José, Costa Rica.

Gilman, A.C., R. M. Fincher, S. G. Letcher, T. Massad, and J. D. Zamora Mejías. June 2013. "Tropical forest restoration: Trajectories of early species growth and natural recruitment across a gradient of planted species diversity." Annual Meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation, San José, Costa Rica.

Colwell, R.K. and S.G. Letcher. June 2013. "Statistical estimation of species richness and biotic similarity using EstimateS." (invited pre-conference workshop) Annual Meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation, San José, Costa Rica.

Letcher, S.G. March 2013. "Evolutionary history determines ecological assembly rules: phylogenetic community structure of tropical forests during succession." (invited lecture) Binghamton University, Binghamton, New York.

Letcher, S.G. October 2012. "Tropical forests on a changing planet." (invited faculty colloquium lecture) Purchase College, Purchase, New York.

Letcher, S.G. April 2012. "Phylogenetic community structure during succession: evidence from three Neotropical forests." (invited lecture) Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Milbrook, New York.

Letcher, S.G. November 2011: "Phylogenetic community structure of tropical secondary forests." (invited lecture) Chinese Academy of Forestry, Beijing.

Letcher, S.G. June 2011. "Tropical plant taxonomy." (invited workshop) OTS Fundamentals of Tropical Biology program, Palo Verde National Park, Costa Rica.

Letcher, S.G. January 2011. "Structure and biodiversity of secondary forests in northeastern Costa Rica." (invited lecture) La Selva Biological Station, Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí, Costa Rica.

Letcher, S.G. March 2010. "Phylogenetic structure of angiosperm communities during tropical forest succession." (invited lecture) Barro Colorado Island, Panama.

Letcher, S.G. July 2009. "Lianas and trees during tropical forest succession." Annual Meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation, Marburg, Germany.

Letcher, S.G. July 2009. "Robust statistical methods for biodiversity estimation with EstimateS 8.2." (invited workshop) Fungal Ecology and Systematics Information Network meeting, Snowbird, Utah.

Letcher, S.G. June 2009 & July 2010. "Tropical plant identification." (invited workshop) Research Experience for Undergraduates program, La Selva Biological Station.

Letcher, S.G. November 2008. "Forests of the future? Tropical forests and biodiversity conservation." (invited seminar) Wheaton College, Norton, Massachusetts.

Letcher, S.G., and Chazdon, R.L. July 2008. "La rapidez y eficacia de la regeneración natural del bosque lluvioso en la Zona Norte de Costa Rica." (poster) Las Cruces Restoration and Conservation Workshop, San Vito, Costa Rica.

Letcher, S.G. June 2008. "Phylogenetic diversity of woody plants during forest succession in northeastern Costa Rica." Annual Meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation, Paramaribo, Suriname.

Letcher, S.G. July 2007. "Patterns of forest succession in northeastern Costa Rica: aboveground biomass, species richness, and species composition in a chronosequence of 30 sites." Annual Meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation, Morelia, Mexico.

Sun, J.W.C., Rundel, P., Chazdon, R.L., and Letcher, S.G. July 2007. "Diversity and succession dynamics in understory herb communities of lowland rainforests." (poster) Annual Meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation, Morelia, Mexico.

Letcher, S.G. July 2006. "Stand structure and species composition of secondary forests in northeastern Costa Rica." Annual Meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation, Kunming, China.

Professional Experience

8/11-present—Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies, Purchase College (SUNY). Courses offered: Introduction to Environmental Science, General Ecology and lab, Conservation Biology, Restoration Ecology, Economic Botany and lab, Senior Project I and II, Tropical Ecosystems: Diversity and Sustainability, Biostatistics (beginning Spring 2017).

1/15—invited faculty, Tropical Field Ecology, Wheaton College, Wheaton, MA (offered in Belize and Costa Rica). I taught classroom and field-based lessons on tropical reef and rain forest ecology and advised student projects.

6/11—invited faculty, Fundamentals of Tropical Biology graduate course, Organization for Tropical Studies. I taught fundamental principles of tropical plant taxonomy in the field and laboratory to 20 graduate students.

5/10-6/10 and 5/11-6/11: Instructor, Introduction to Tropical Ecology, Hillyer College, University of Hartford. I organized the logistics and provided classroom/field instruction for two 11-day field courses in Costa Rica.

1/09-6/11: Resident Professor, Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS). Co-instructor and coordinator for an undergraduate study abroad program with courses in Fundamentals of Tropical Biology, Field Research in Tropical Biology, and Environmental Science and Policy in the Tropics.

6/07-8/08—Coordinator, OTS Research Experience for Undergraduates at La Selva Biological Station, Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí, Costa Rica. I provided logistical support, instruction, and guidance during a ten-week summer internship program for undergraduates in 2007 and 2008, in which each student worked with a mentor to develop and carry out an independent research project.

10/06-11/06—volunteer for the Environmental Education Program at La Selva Biological Station. I gave tours and supplemental instruction to visiting students from local schools.

6/06—resource person for OTS Tropical Biology (06-3) and Plant Systematics (06-9) at La Selva. I directed student projects and assisted with plant identification in the field.

6/05-12/05—project manager, Proyecto Bosques (Dynamics of Secondary Forests), at La Selva. I coordinated schedules, ordered supplies, and planned the daily activities of three Costa Rican field assistants in an NSF-funded project directed by Dr. Robin Chazdon.

12/04—teaching assistant, Carleton College tropical rainforest ecology program, La Selva. I traveled to Costa Rica with a group of students and assisted with experimental design, plant identification, and logistical support during a two-week research program.

6/04-8/06—mentor for one UCONN undergraduate and four Wellesley undergraduates conducting research at La Selva. I trained students in research techniques and field safety, and assisted with the design and execution of research projects. One collaboration, with Mary Beth Palomaki, produced a publication in 2006.

8/03-12/08—teaching assistant, University of Connecticut: Fundamentals of Biology, Introduction to Biology II (plant-focused), Evolution (writing-intensive section) and Methods of Field Ecology.

7/02-8/02—creative writing instructor for 5th to 10th graders at Summer Festival of the Arts, Bar Harbor, Maine.

4/02—co-leader of Ecuador Field Studies trip, Mount Desert Island High School, Bar Harbor, Maine. I served as translator and co-chaperone for a group of 16 high school students on a three-week community service trip to Ecuador.

6/00-10/01—hiked over 4,000 miles on the Appalachian Trail, from Maine to Georgia and back to Maine.

3/00-6/00—laboratory assistant for Population Ecology at Carleton College.

9/99-6/00—teaching assistant for Music Theory I, II and III at Carleton College.

6/97-8/97—Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Fellow at Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory (MDIBL) with Dr. David Miller. I continued the renal physiology work that I started in high school.

6/94-8/94—Hancock County Scholars Program Fellow at MDIBL. As a high school junior, selected from a county-wide pool of applicants, I worked with Dr. David Miller of NIEHS studying organic anion transport in the renal proximal tubule.

Grants Funded

- 2014: Instructional Technologies Advisory Committee, Purchase College (\$26,750 upgrade of teaching labs)
- 2012: Robert O. Fehr Professorship (\$5000)
Purchase College Affiliates grant (\$800)
Purchase College Student Engagement Grant (\$180)
- 2011: National Science Foundation grant for Long-term Research in Environmental Biology (LTREB) DEB-1147367. Multidecadal performance of tropical rainforest canopy trees – climate change, disturbance, and ontogeny; with Dr. Deborah Clark, U. Missouri – St. Louis (\$441,524 over 60 months)
Purchase College Student Engagement Grant (\$500)
- 2006: Ronald Bamford Endowment Research Award (\$1500)
- 2005: National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship (\$30,000/yr plus tuition support and travel for 3 yrs)
Organization for Tropical Studies Research Fellowship (\$3000)
- 2004: University of Connecticut Center for Conservation and Biodiversity Fellowship (\$2000)
Ronald Bamford Endowment Research Award (\$1000)
- 2003: University of Connecticut Outstanding Scholar Fellowship (\$25,000/yr plus tuition support for up to 3 yrs)

Major Grants Submitted

- 2014: NSF DEB/Research at Undergraduate Institutions (\$1,456,745 over 3 yrs; not funded)
- 2013: DOE/NASA/USDA Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Science (\$1,048,871 over 3 yrs; not funded)
- 2012: Department of Energy Terrestrial Ecosystems Research (\$1,049,296 over 3 yrs; not funded)

Honors and Awards

- 2012: 2nd degree black belt and international instructor certification in Tae Kwon Do
2009: Honorable mention, OTS Student Paper Award
2007: Wallace Stevens Poetry Prize, University of Connecticut
2004: Honorable Mention, NSF Graduate Fellowship
2003: Honorable Mention, NSF Graduate Fellowship
2000: Phi Beta Kappa membership
Sigma Xi membership
1st degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do
Sigrid and Erling Larson Award in the Creative and Performing Arts (for music composition)

Professional Activities

Editorial Board member, *Biotropica*, September 2014-present

Invited referee for *Austral Ecology*, *Basic and Applied Ecology*, *Biological Conservation*, *Biotropica*, *Ecography*, *Ecological Applications*, *Ecological Management and Restoration*, *Ecological Research*, *Ecology*, *Ecology Letters*, *Forest Ecology and Management*, *Functional Ecology*, *Global Ecology and Biogeography*, *Journal of Applied Ecology*, *Journal of Biogeography*, *Journal of Ecology*, *Journal of Plant Ecology*, *Journal of Tropical Ecology*, *Journal of Vegetation Science*, *Mountain Research and Development*, *New Phytologist*, *Oikos*, *Plant Ecology and Diversity*, *PLoS One*, *Polibotánica*, *Restoration Ecology*, *Revista de Biología Tropical*

Reviewer for two chapters of the book *Ecology of Lianas* (S. Schnitzer, F. Bongers, R. Burnham, F. Putz, eds.)

Ad hoc reviewer for National Science Foundation: Population and Community Ecology panel, Systematic Biology and Biodiversity Inventories panel

Member of Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation, Ecological Society of America, Sigma Xi, Phi Beta Kappa

Symposium co-organizer (with Dr. Stefan Schnitzer, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee): "Changing liana abundance in tropical forests," ATBC 2009, Marburg, Germany.

Language Proficiency

Spanish (fluent written and oral); English (native speaker)

Software Proficiency

R, EstimateS, PC-Ord, Primer-E, Phylocom, Stella and most major statistics packages