

Hanusia Higgins

(717) 681-4411 | hanusia@uga.edu

Education

- University of Georgia, Athens, GA Aug. 2022 – present
Ph.D. Forestry, advised by Dr. Kamal Gandhi and Dr. Elizabeth McCarty
- University of Vermont, Burlington, VT Aug. 2019 – July 2022
M.S. Natural Resources: Forest Science
Thesis: “Short- and long-term impacts of forest management in response to the invasive emerald ash borer in New England forests,” advised by Dr. Anthony D’Amato
Graduate Teaching Program, 2019 cohort
- Organization for Tropical Studies, San Jose, Costa Rica Dec. 2018 – Jan. 2019
Field Ecology: Skills for Science and Beyond
- Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO Aug. 2014 – May 2018
B.A. magna cum laude, Biology: Ecology and Evolution
Senior Honors Thesis: “The effects of oomycetes on plant-soil feedback interactions,” advised by Dr. Scott Mangan and Dr. Claudia Stein
- School for International Training, Fort Dauphin, Madagascar Jan. 2017 – May 2017
SIT Study Abroad Program in Madagascar: Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management
Independent Study Project: “Surveying the Distributions of *Melaleuca quinquenervia*, *Psidium cattleianum*, and *Litsea glutinosa* at Analalava Special Reserve,” advised by Anselme Tilahimena

Experience

- ORISE Fellow March 2022 – present
Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center
Synthesizing climate change research and adaptation resources to inform northeastern states’ wildlife action plans in a regional report
- Graduate Teaching Assistant Aug. 2019 – Dec. 2021
University of Vermont, Burlington, VT
Led outdoor and virtual lab sections, held office hours to explain concepts in ecology, graded assignments, and mentored 3 undergraduate teaching assistants for natural resources and forestry courses with enrollments ranging from 18-120 students over 5 semesters
- AmeriCorps Stewardship and Volunteer Engagement Associate Sept. 2018 – July 2019
Hemlock Restoration Initiative, Asheville, NC

Treated hemlocks on public and private lands, monitored insect populations, wrote grant proposals, led instructive workshops, organized volunteers, created educational materials, and planned outreach events

Research Assistant May 2018 – Aug. 2018
Silviculture & Applied Forestry Lab, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT
Surveyed forest monitoring plots for a long-term study of the interacting effects of climate change and forest management practices; managed project data

Tyson Undergraduate Research Fellow May 2017 – Aug. 2017
Tyson Research Center, Washington University in St. Louis, Eureka, MO
Conducted independent thesis research and worked collaboratively on lab-wide projects, including large-scale garden and greenhouse experiments in the Mangan Lab; mentored 4 high school students in month-long internships

Teaching Assistant Aug. 2016 – Dec. 2016
Washington University Biology department, St. Louis, MO
Held weekly office hours, explained concepts in genetics and genomics, and graded exams for 300-student introductory biology course, Principles of Biology II

Undergraduate Research Assistant June 2016 – Aug. 2016
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Barro Colorado Island, Panama
Assisted lab technicians with sterilizing and planting seeds, and harvesting and processing greenhouse experiments; identified and collected seeds throughout forest plots on Barro Colorado Island

Mangan Lab, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO Sept. 2015 – May 2018
Completed general lab duties including data entry, weighing samples, and biomass collection for work-study position in lab studying plant-soil interactions

Publications

Research Reports

Wikle, J., Higgins, H., Clark, P., Cook, D., Dutton, D., Garton, J., Kosiba, A., Schadler, E., 2021. Climate Change in Forests. In Galford, G.L., Faulkner, J. et al. (Eds), The Vermont Climate Assessment 2021. Burlington, Vermont: Gund Institute for Environment at the University of Vermont. vtclimate.org

Higgins, H., 2017. Surveying the Distributions of *Melaleuca quinquenervia*, *Psidium cattleianum*, and *Litsea glutinosa* at Analalava Special Reserve. Independent Study Project (ISP) Collection. 2573. https://digitalcollections.sit.edu/isp_collection/2573

Presentations and Posters

Warnell Graduate Student Symposium	Feb. 2023
How do Environmental Factors affect Ips Beetle Dynamics in Southeastern Pine Forests? (poster)	
Awarded best graduate student poster	
North American Forest Ecology Workshop	June 2022
Impacts of Emerald Ash Borer Management on Northern Hardwood Forest Dynamics in New England (talk)	
New England Society of American Foresters Annual Meeting	March 2022
Impacts of Emerald Ash Borer Management on Northern Hardwood Forest Dynamics in New England (talk)	
Forest Ecosystem Monitoring Cooperative Annual Conference	Dec. 2020
Impacts of Emerald Ash Borer Management on Northern Hardwood Forest Dynamics in New England (talk)	
Rubenstein School Graduate Research Symposium	Nov. 2020
Impacts of Emerald Ash Borer Management on Northern Hardwood Forest Dynamics in New England (talk)	
Southern Appalachian Forest Entomology and Pathology Seminar	Mar. 2019
Hemlock Restoration Initiative: Evaluating and sharing hemlock conservation strategies in North Carolina (talk)	
Undergraduate Research Symposium, Washington University in St. Louis	
The effects of oomycetes on plant-soil feedback interactions (poster)	Apr. 2018
“The enemy of an enemy is a friend:” Effects of Pythium oligandrum on belowground plant-pathogen interactions (poster)	Oct. 2017
Tyson Undergraduate Summer Symposium	Aug. 2017
Effects of Pythium oligandrum on belowground plant-pathogen interactions (talk)	

Grants and Awards

Graduate School Doctoral Fellowship Award, University of Georgia	2022
Rubenstein School for Environment and Natural Resources	
Graduate Student Award for Outstanding Teaching Assistant	2022
Graduate Student Award for Outstanding Community Service	2021
Urban & Community Forestry Grant, North Carolina Forest Service	2019
\$15,000 (written as a part of the Hemlock Restoration Initiative)	
Perry N. Rudnick Fund Grant, Community Foundation of Henderson County	2018

\$8,000 (written as a part of the Hemlock Restoration Initiative)	
The Environmental Studies Grant for Student Research at Washington University	2017 – 2018
\$2,000	
Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, United States Department of State	2016 – 2017
National Merit Scholarship	2014 – 2018

Engaged Scholarship

President, Rubenstein Graduate Student Association	2020 – 2021
--	-------------

Advocated for graduate student interests to faculty and administration; organized virtual ecology speaker series of 4 early-career researchers; introduced peer mentor program for new graduate students in the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources

Young Voices of Science, Hubbard Brook Research Foundation	2020
--	------

Attended 5 workshops with science communication experts in a variety of fields alongside 30 fellow students and engaged in an independent outreach project, enhancing science communication skills

Technical Skills

R
ArcGIS Pro
LANDIS-II
PC-ORD

Professional Affiliations

Society of American Foresters, Student Member	2020 – present
Forest Stewards Guild, Student Member	2020 – present