

Megan Whitaker Potter

(678) 839-4046 | mwhitaker@westga.edu

Education

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY | JULY 2021 | UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY | DECEMBER 2017 | UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA

Experience

LIMITED TERM INSTRUCTOR, BIOLOGY | AUGUST 2025 - PRESENT

WHITE COAT SCIENCES, LAB MANAGER | MARCH 2020 - PRESENT

- Performed COVID-19 qPCR and antibody tests during the pandemic
- Developed and implemented new lab protocols
- Organized lab for better efficiency and work flow
- Train new employees on assays and lab safety
- Manage lab supplies and ordering materials
- Ensure the lab follows all accrediting regulations
- Process wastewater and analyze results
- Manage lab employees and be available to help in any way
- Process sample results and put into reports for patients
- Train employees on time management and reducing human error in the lab
- Troubleshoot assays and equipment
- Led clinical trial with twenty patients for new medical device

ECORE INSTRUCTOR | UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA | FEBRUARY 2022 - PRESENT

- Instructor for Environmental Science and Introduction to Biology
- Grade all assignments, teach material and answer student questions

BRAMMER BIO/THERMOFISHER, SCIENTIST | JANUARY 2018 – JUNE 2019

- Able to perform qPCR, ddPCR, ELISA, western blotting, gel electrophoresis, infectious assays and DNA extraction
- Analyze data, organize results into reports and write summary reports for clients
- Aseptic trained
- Part of the safety committee and the safety working group
- Help develop, optimize and establish assays
- Train new employees on assays and be a mentor Applied the 5S method of organization to the labs

COASTAL SUMMER SEMESTER | UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA | JULY 2017

- Field study in Oceanography at the University of Georgia's Skidaway Institute of Oceanography
- Conducted Independent Field Study at The University of Georgia Marine Institute on zooplankton diversity and abundance along the Duplin River, Sapelo Island, Georgia

COASTAL MARINE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH ACADEMY | SHARK AND RAY INTERNSHIP | JULY 2017

- Handled sharks and rays to take tissue samples which were used for DNA analysis

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT | MAY 2016

- Advisor: Yvette L. Garner, Ph.D.
- A survey of invasive and native mussels within the St. John's River Estuary, Jacksonville, FL, USA
- Collected morphometric shell measurements of native and invasive marine mussels
- Interviewed for a short documentary on the research for The Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE) Florida

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT | DECEMBER 2016

- Advisors: Yvette L. Garner, Ph.D.; Frank Fontanella, Ph.D.
- A biogeographic survey of the hooked mussel, *Ischadium recurvum*, in the Southeastern United States
- Performed DNA extraction, PCR amplification of nuclear and mitochondrial genes, gel electrophoresis, and PCR clean up for molecular analysis

CHEMISTRY WORKSHOP LEADER | JANUARY 2015 – MAY 2015

ORGANIC CHEMISTRY LAB TEACHING ASSISTANT | AUGUST 2016 – DECEMBER 2016

BIOLOGY WORKSHOP LEADER | AUGUST 2017 – DECEMBER

BIOLOGY TUTOR | AUGUST 2017 – DECEMBER 2017 2017

INTRO. TO BIOLOGY LAB INSTRUCTOR | FALL 2019 – MAY 2021

Publications

Whitaker, M, Procter, T, & Fontanella, FM (2021). Phylogeography and demographic expansion in the widely distributed horned passalus beetle, *odontotaenius disjunctus* (coleoptera: Passalidae). Mitochondrial DNA Part A.

Fontanella FM, Garner Y, Starnes J, Whitaker M. Evidence for panmixia despite barriers to gene flow in the hooked mussel *Ischadium recurvum* (Mytilidae; Brachidontiane) along the North American coastline. (Accepted Mitochondrial DNA Part A).

Presentations

UWG UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

LSAMP ANNUAL RESEARCH SCIENTISTS OF TOMORROW SYMPOSIUM

CRUISING FOR CONSERVATION SYMPOSIUM