

# GABRIELLA STEELE

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## SUMMARY

Dedicated entomologist with excellent technical, analytical and communication skills demonstrated by three years of work experience. Skilled in research, vegetable entomology, plant virology, insect husbandry/rearing, data analysis, and customer service. Truly impassioned by arthropods!

## SKILLS

- Insect colony rearing and maintenance
- Plant virus mechanical and biological inoculations
- Laboratory and chemical safety knowledge
- Research experimentation and journaling
- Nematode soil extraction and separation
- Analysis of data to gauge extent of plant-parasitic nematode problems
- Customer service and communications
- Knowledge on parasitoids and honey bee pests

## LANGUAGES

Fluent in English, Portuguese, and Spanish. Speaking and writing.

## EXPERIENCE

**06/2014 to Current**

### Research Intern Abroad

**Universidad del Valle de Guatemala** — Guatemala City, Vista Hermosa

- Researched in Guatemala during the summers of 2014 and 2016.
- Worked at the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala under the mentoring of Dr. Jack Schuster, a UF PhD in entomology. Dr. Schuster and I worked together in researching the insects of the Vista Hermosa region.
- 2014 research focused particularly on wasps of the parasitoid genus *Ichneumonidae* and Passalid beetles.
- 2016 research focused mostly on *Phyllophaga* beetles, with side projects on Passalidae, Mecoptera, and Dillariidae.
- Working at the university's entomology lab, I gathered specimens and summarized data to create a phenology report, which I wrote into a research paper that has been published.
- Earned invaluable field experience while searching for Passalid beetles. I traveled to the Guatemalan cloud forests in search of beetles and their larvae. There I collected many beetles, and other specimens of research interest.

**03/2017 to Current**

### Nematode Assay Lab Data Analyst and Receptionist

**University of Florida** — Gainesville, FL

- Receive customer's soil samples sent to the UF Nematode Assay Lab.
- Process sample paperwork and send it to nematode counting.
- Send samples to diagnosticians for risk assessment of nematodes.
- Give personal experience-based analyses and risk assessments to customers who call before receiving results.
- Explain results and clarify nematode activity and sample-specific questions to customers.
- Process payments and send invoices.
- Answer all customer calls and emails; explain soil sampling procedures and more.

**07/2017 to 07/2017**

### Bug Camp Counselor

**University of Florida** — Gainesville, FL

- Served as a counselor at the Entomology Department's annual week-long Bug Camp event.
- Supervised around thirty youths ranging from 6-14 years in age.

- Helped the campers with insect collecting in the prairies of the Natural Area Teaching Lab, the aquatic habitats of Santa Fe River, and the diverse landscape of the Ashton Biological Preserve.
- Taught campers about all the insect orders, as well as how to curate each order.
- Participated in and helped to organize entertainment activities for the campers.
- Ensured camper safety through supervision, guidance, and education on wildlife.

**03/2015 to  
07/2016**

**Vegetable Entomology Research Assistant / Laboratory Technician  
University of Florida** – Gainesville, FL

- Reared research colonies of green peach aphids and whiteflies.
- Planted and maintained soy and cucurbits for colony feeding and plant virology research.
- Revitalized viral colonies through mechanical plant virus inoculations.
- Experimented on aphid and whitefly abilities to transmit viruses through biological inoculation.
- Maintained detailed lab journal notes on inoculations and other research activities.

**11/2014 to  
Current**

**Lepidoptera Collection Curator  
Florida Museum of Natural History** – Gainesville, FL

- Work to pin, label, and sort the Lepidoptera in the museum collection.
- Specialize in species identification, organization, and restoration of thousands of moth specimens. Volunteer work.

**11/2014 to  
Current**

**Butterfly Rainforest Interpreter  
Florida Museum of Natural History** – Gainesville, Florida

- Volunteer at the museum, involves knowledge of insects as well as communication skills.
- Identify butterflies, answer peoples' questions, and give facts about the rainforest's Lepidoptera and plants.

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

**2017**

**Bachelor of Science:** Entomology & Nematology (Biosecurity Specialization)

**University of Florida** – Gainesville, FL, United States  
Bachelor's Degree in Progress; Graduation December 2017

**2014**

**Associate of Arts**

**Broward College** – Davie, FL, United States  
Achieved AA Degree through College Academy at BC dual enrollment.

## ACTIVITIES AND HONORS

### Activities and Community Involvement:

Volunteer regularly at entomology outreach programs for the Entomology Club, increasing public awareness and appreciation for insects. At these events, I talk to people of all age groups about why arthropods interest me and why they're so important to our planet's health and human health. I help debunk common misconceptions about insects, and encourage people to expand their comfort zones by exploring the Entomology Club petting zoo and petting some of our friendly bugs. Other events involve giving tours through the entomology department, and teaching groups on campus.

Listed below are some of the community outreach events in which I have volunteered at least once throughout the years:

- Bug Week 2014-2017
- Bug Fest 2016-2017
- Ten Can Veteran Appreciation Fair 2016
- CALS Kickoff 2014-2015
- Girl Scouts Entomology Department Tour 2017
- Destiny Leadership Academy Visit 2017
- Ocali Days County Fair 2014-2016
- Florida State Fair 2014-2016

Fundraise for the Entomology Club by making insect-based crafts with repurposed collection specimens, such as holiday ornaments, beetle elytra earrings, butterfly wing necklaces, and more. I have attended the majority of club crafting nights, creating over \$300 worth in club funds. I also directly

sold around \$70 of that.

### **Honors:**

- UF Dean's List 2014-Current
- Entomology Club Scholarship 2014-Current
- CALS Coca-Cola Scholarship for Academic Achievement 2014-Current
- Invitation to Gold Key Honor Society 2016-2017
- Broward College Dean's List 2012-2014

### **PUBLICATIONS**

"Phenology of *Zagryphus*." J. Schuster and G. Steele. Published in the journal *Insecta Mundi*, 2015. This research paper details the phenology of parasitoid wasps in the genus *Zagryphus* in the Vista Hermosa region of Guatemala, with a focus on *Z. zulaya*. The report reveals the times of year in which these wasps are most and least abundant in different areas of the region, and correlates the trends with other factors including elevation and rain to speculate on the habitat preferences of these elusive and little-understood wasps.

"Phenology of *Phyllophaga*." Paper currently in progress, not yet published. This paper delves into the phenology of around a dozen species of *Phyllophaga*, a very common and abundant beetle genus. Though this genus exists around the world, the report focuses on phenology of those specimens observed in the Vista Hermosa region of Guatemala.