

# KATHY ROCCAFORTE

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University of Kansas  
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## EDUCATION

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| 2012-present | Ph.D. student, University of Kansas, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology<br>Advisor: Bryan Foster |
| 2009-2012    | M.S. Biological Sciences, University of Nebraska-Lincoln<br>Advisors: Sabrina Russo and Diana Pilson         |
| 2007         | B.S. Biology, Creighton University, summa cum laude (Environmental Science minor)                            |

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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- Plant community ecology and plant-insect interactions, particularly interactions among plants and pollinators
- Plant evolution, hybridization and speciation, mechanisms of reproductive isolation
- Ecological restoration and adaptive management, especially in tallgrass prairie ecosystems

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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| 2012      | Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Nebraska: Botany laboratory (BIOS 109)                          |
| 2011      | Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Nebraska: Organismic Biology laboratory (BIOS 103)              |
| 2009-2010 | Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Nebraska: General Biology laboratory (BIOS 101)                 |
| 2008-2009 | Research Assistant, Plant Conservation Laboratory, Henry Doorly Zoo, Omaha, NE (Supervisor: Margaret From) |
| 2008      | Undergraduate Teaching Assistant: Zoology laboratory (BIO 335)   |
| 2007      | Undergraduate Teaching Assistant: Biometry laboratory (BIO 401)  |
| 2007      | Undergraduate Teaching Assistant: Environmental Science class (EVS 390)                                    |
| 2007      | Undergraduate Teaching Assistant: General Biology: Organismal & Population laboratory (BIO 212)            |
| 2006-2007 | Undergraduate Teaching Assistant: Terrestrial Ecology laboratory (BIO 481)                                 |

## AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

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- 2010 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program, Honorable Mention
- 2008 Creighton University Department of Biology, Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement
- 2008 Creighton University Department of Biology, Award for Outstanding Research
- 2007 Creighton University, Dean's Award for Research

## SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

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- 2012-2016 University of Kansas, Madison & Lila Self Graduate Fellowship
- 2010-2011 University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Center for Grassland Studies, Arthur William Sampson Fellowship
- 2010, 2011 University of Nebraska-Lincoln, School of Biological Sciences, Special Funds Grant
- 2009-2010 University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Chancellor's Fellowship
- 2009 University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Center for Great Plains Studies Research Grant-in-Aid: *Evaluating mechanisms of reproductive isolation between Erythronium albidum (Liliaceae) and its rare congener E. mesochoreum*
- 2008 Association of Zoological Horticulture, Conservation Grant: *Cryopreservation and recovery of possible mycorrhizal symbionts of Platanthera praeclara (western prairie fringed orchid)*
- 2006-2007 Creighton University, Ferlic Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship
- 2003-2007 Creighton University Academic Merit Scholarship

## PUBLICATIONS

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- 2006 Roccaforte, K.A. and Vinton, M.A. Effects of reduced light on growth and allocation patterns in garlic mustard. *Proceedings of the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual North American Prairie Conference*, 25-32.

## INVITED SEMINARS

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- 2011 University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Grassland Studies Seminar Series, *Hybridization and reproductive isolation between two Midwestern lilies*

- 2011 Creighton University Environmental Sciences Seminar Series, *What makes a “species” a species?: Mechanisms of reproductive isolation between two Midwestern lilies*
- 2011 University of Nebraska-Lincoln, MATH/BIOS 316 Mathematical Biology, *Investigating pollinator constancy in mixed-species patches of Erythronium albidum (Liliaceae) and Erythronium mesochoreum*

#### **PRESENTATIONS, NATIONAL MEETINGS**

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- 2011 The Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting, Austin, TX (oral presentation) *Reproductive isolation between diploid Erythronium mesochoreum (Liliaceae) and its tetraploid congener E. albidum*
- 2011 Evolution 2011 Conference, Norman, OK (poster presentation) *Evaluating mechanisms of reproductive isolation between diploid Erythronium mesochoreum (Liliaceae) and its tetraploid congener E. albidum*
- 2009 American Public Gardens Association Annual Meeting, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, MO (oral presentation) *Cryopreservation of threatened Madagascar orchid seeds: strategies for long-term conservation*
- 2009 The Association of Zoos and Aquariums Annual Meeting, Milwaukee, WI (oral presentation) *Conservation of Madagascar’s highly threatened endemic plants*
- 2007 The Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting, San Jose, CA (poster presentation) *The effects of a changing light regime on the invasive plant Alliaria petiolata (garlic mustard) in eastern deciduous forest*

#### **PRESENTATIONS, LOCAL AND REGIONAL MEETINGS**

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- 2007 Creighton University Honors Day (oral presentation) *The effects of a changing light regime on the invasive plant Alliaria petiolata (garlic mustard) in eastern deciduous forest*
- 2006 North American Prairie Conference, Kearney, NE (oral presentation) *Tolerance of garlic mustard to a changing light regime*
- 2006 Creighton University Ferlic Undergraduate Research Colloquium (poster presentation) *The effects of a changing light regime on the invasive plant Alliaria petiolata (garlic mustard) in eastern deciduous forest*

## SERVICE AND OUTREACH

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### *Departmental and University Service*

- 2012            Contributed article to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's *Center for Grassland Studies Newsletter*, "Tracking Trout Lilies: Hybridization, Species Boundaries, and Conservation in the Genus *Erythronium*"
- 2010-2011     Research for Undergraduates in Theoretical Ecology (RUTE) Scholars program, Volunteer Teaching Assistant
- 2010, 2011     US Department of Education Upward Bound Program, Volunteer
- 2010-2011     University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Biology Graduate Student Association, Vice President

### *Outside Service*

- 2007-2009     Volunteer Taekwondo Instructor, Nebraska Academy of Martial Arts, Omaha, NE

## UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENTAL WORKSHOPS

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- 2012            Teaching Naked: How Moving Technology Out of Your College Classroom Will Improve Student Learning (KU Center for Teaching Excellence)
- 2012            The Making of a Hybrid Course: The Nitty-Gritty How-To's (KU Center for Teaching Excellence)