

Autumn A. Amici

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| autumn.amici@utah.edu

Friday, April 6, 2018

Applications in Plant Sciences Editorial Board

Botanical Society of America

Dear Applications in Plant Sciences Editorial Board:

The root of my passion for nature began at a young age. Some of my earliest memories include bird watching with my mom and dissecting the mosses and lichens on the rocks outside my childhood home. Throughout my education, I found an interest in teaching and encouraging students to see the amazing and unique adaptations of plants, which has ultimately led me to pursue a PhD. I was admitted into the Department of Biology at the University of Utah to work in Dr. Nalini Nadkarni's lab in 2014. Since the start of my PhD program, I have identified an interest in science writing and editing. One of my most worn textbooks is Joshua Schimel's *Writing Science*, which I frequently reference when editing my work and the works of others.

I have important experiences that I can apply to this position as an *APPS* editor. For example, from 2014 to early 2018, I was the editor of the International Canopy Network's tri-annual newsletter. As editor, I approached researchers and community members involved in canopy research to write short essays about their work for a broad audience. I designed and organized the newsletter and edited author's writings, which were then reviewed by the executive editor, Dr. Nalini Nadkarni. Therefore, in addition to having previous editing experience, I also have experience working with executive editors and merging their comments with my own while maintaining the author's intent in their piece.

Furthermore, I have previous experience as a manuscript reviewer for academic journals. In 2017, I reviewed a manuscript for the Journal of the Torrey Botanical Society. Additionally, Dr. Nadkarni and I have recently reviewed a manuscript for *AoB Plants*.

Finally, I would be a good fit for this position because I am in tune with the current research within the plant genetics field, as one of my dissertation chapters is exploring the impacts of pasture isolation on epiphyte plant population genetics. I have submitted an abstract to present this work at the BSA annual meeting this year in Minnesota.

I can agree to two manuscript reviews per month and to the two-year commitment. Additionally, I plan to complete field work for my dissertation this summer (2018) and do not have field plans that would conflict with this commitment. I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to further develop my science editing skill set and volunteer for this high-quality journal. Thank you so much for your time. I look forward to hearing from the committee.

Sincerely,

Autumn Amici

Autumn A. Amici
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EDUCATION

- PhD** **University of Utah** Expected Grad:
Department of Biology **Spring 2019**
Advisor: Nalini M. Nadkarni, PhD
Committee: Phyllis Coley, PhD, Kelly Bricker, PhD, Lynn Bohs, PhD, Jon Seger, PhD
- MS** **University of Hawaii at Manoa** **May 2013**
Advisor: Tom A. Ranker, PhD
Committee: Shelley A. James, PhD, Tamara Ticktin, PhD, Don Drake, PhD
Thesis: Impacts of logging on primary forests of Siboma Village in the Morobe Province, Papua New Guinea
- BS** **University of Vermont** **May 2011**
Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, Honors College
Double Major: Wildlife Biology and Natural Resources; Minor: Plant Biology
Advisor: Allan Strong, PhD
Committee: Paige Warren, PhD, Austin Troy, PhD, Kimberly Wallin, PhD
Honors Thesis: Effects of an urbanization gradient on arthropod prey availability and woodpecker provisioning rates
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PUBLICATIONS

- Gotsch, S. G., Nadkarni, N., & **Amici, A.** 2016. The functional roles of epiphytes and arboreal soils in tropical montane cloud forests. *Journal of Tropical Ecology* 32:455-468. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S026646741600033X>
- Amici, A. A.**, Nakarni, N. M., Williams, C. Dawson, T., & Gotsch, S. G. *in prep.* Epiphyte biomass and community composition change along landscape and within-crown gradients in a montane cloud forest, Monteverde, Costa Rica.
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RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Graduate Student Researcher | Department of Biology University of Utah | Fall 2014- present |
| Program Coordinator | The International Canopy Network 501(C)3 Non-profit in Salt Lake City, UT www.internationalcanopynetwork.org | Fall 2014-Spring 2018 |
| Graduate Research | Department of Botany | Fall 2011-May 2013 |

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|---|---|---------------------|
| Assistant | University of Hawaii at Manoa | |
| Undergraduate Research Assistant | REU Ecology Program, Harvard Forest Harvard University, MA <i>REU Research Advisor: Paige Warren, Ph.D.</i> | May-Aug. 2010 |
| Undergraduate Laboratory Technician | Cyrus Pringle Herbarium University of Vermont | Jan. 2009-May 2011 |
| Undergraduate Research | Sandpiper Conservation Research Project | Aug.-Sep. 2009 |
| Field Assistant Undergraduate Entomology | University of Vermont | |
| Laboratory Assistant | University of Vermont | Aug. 2007-Jan. 2009 |
| Biology Intern | Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge Virginia Beach, VA | May-Aug. 2008 |

FIELD EXPERIENCE

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|---|---|---------------------|
| Monteverde, Costa Rica | December 2015, May-June 2016, April- June 2017 Epiphyte community composition and population genetics for PhD thesis | |
| Great Smoky Mountains National Park, NC | Tree phenology monitoring | Aug. 2013-Aug. 2014 |
| Siboma Village, Papua New Guinea | Tree diversity plot sampling for MS thesis | June 2012 |
| Harvard Forest, Petersham, MA | Cavity nesting bird monitoring, arthropod and insect sample collection | May-Aug. 2010 |
| Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Virginia Beach, VA | Intern conducting work on sea turtle conservation program, shorebird and wetland bird surveys, native plant surveys, and invasive plant treatment | May-Aug. 2008 |

HONORS & AWARDS

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| Riser Research Award- Fellowship, University of Utah | Fall 2017-Spring 2018 |
| Riser Travel Grant, University of Utah | Fall 2016-Spring 2017 |
| Riser Research Award- Fellowship, University of Utah | Fall 2016-Spring 2017 |
| Riser Travel Grant, University of Utah | Fall 2015-Spring 2016 |
| Gold Scholarship, University of Utah | Fall 2015-Spring 2016 |
| TGLL Fellowship, University of Utah | Fall 2014-Spring 2015 |
| Torrey-Degener-Rock Endowment Scholarship, UH Manoa | Fall 2012-Spring 2013 |
| Senior Wildlife Biology Academic Achievement Award, UVM | Fall 2010-Spring 2011 |
| Junior Book Award, Wildlife Biology Program, UVM | Fall 2009-Spring 2010 |
| Lola Aiken Scholar, UVM | Fall 2007-Spring 2008 |
| Presidential Scholarship, UVM | Fall 2007-Spring 2011 |
| Academic Scholarship, VA Assoc. of Soil and Water Cons. District | Fall 2007 |

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

College Level

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|--------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Teaching Assistant | Plant Ecology in a Changing World Department of Biology University of Utah | Fall 2015 |
| Teaching Assistant | Doing Science: The Biology of Variation Department of Biology University of Utah | Fall 2015, 2016, 2017 |
| Teaching Assistant | Field Population Methods Department of Wildlife Biology University of Vermont | June 2011 |
| Teaching Assistant | Field Ornithology Department of Wildlife Biology University of Vermont | May 2011 |
| Teaching Assistant | Dendrology Department of Forestry University of Vermont | Fall 2010 |

K-12, and Adult

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| Think Globally, Learn Locally Fellow | Department of Biology University of Utah | Fall 2014-Spring 2015 |
| Citizen Science Assistant | Great Smoky Mountains NP Americorps Project Conserve Western North Carolina | Sept. 2013-Aug. 2014 |
| Coordinating Committee Member | Tidewater Chapter Virginia Master Naturalist | June 2006-Dec 2008 |

Students Mentored

Janette Winsor, ACCESS Program, University of Utah, Spring 2018
Emiko Waight, Biology Graduate Student Peer Mentoring Program, University of Utah, 2017-2018
Kiersten Thomson, High School Student, Bio Summer Science Program, University of Utah, 2017
Tess Stapleton, Biology Graduate Student Peer Mentoring Program, University of Utah, 2016-2017
Peter Jeppesen, High School Student, Bio Summer Science Program, University of Utah, 2016
Cody Dangerfield, Undergraduate Student, University of Utah

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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| Botanical Society of America , Student Member | Aug. 2011-Present |
| GALS , Dept. of Biology, University of Utah | Fall 2014- Fall 2016 |

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. "Who's up there? Epiphyte abundance and community composition along two gradients at different scales in a tropical montane cloud forest, Costa Rica", Oral presentation given at the **Ecological Society of America annual conference**, Portland, Oregon, **2017**.
2. Impacts of logging on primary forests of Siboma Village in Morobe Province, Papua New Guinea, Oral presentation given at the **Botanical Society of America annual conference**, New Orleans, LA, **2013**.
3. Effects of an urbanization gradient on arthropod prey availability and woodpecker provisioning rates, Oral presentation given at the **University of Vermont Student Research Conference**, **2011**.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

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| Volunteer Reviewer for a Submitted Manuscript, Co-reviewer with Dr. Nadkarni AoB PLANTS | Spring 2018 |
| Graduate Student Committee Member, Dept. of Biology, Univ. of Utah Graduate Admissions Committee | Fall 2017-Spring 2018 |
| Volunteer Reviewer for a Submitted Manuscript, Journal of the Torrey Botanical Society | Fall 2017 |
| Graduate Student Committee Member, Dept. of Biology, Univ. of Utah Internal and external departmental reviews | Fall 2016 |
| Volunteer Coordinator, ESA Annual Meeting, Special Session 1: Ecofasion Show | August 2016 |
| Climate Change Workshop, Great Smoky Mountains NP | February 2014 |
| Graduate Student Representative, Botany Dept., UH Manoa | May 2012-Dec. 2012 |
| National Wildlife Society, Student Chapter, UVM | Aug. 2009-May 2011 |

CERTIFICATIONS

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| Undergraduate Research Mentoring Development Program Training | Fall 2017 |
| Wilderness First Responder | March 2016-Present |
| Wilderness First Aid | Oct. 2013-Oct. 2015 |
| CPR | October 2013-Present |

REFERENCES

- Dr. Nalini Nadkarni (PhD Advisor)
Professor, University of Utah
Email: nalini.nadkarni@utah.edu
- Dr. Jon Seger (Committee Member)
Professor, University of Utah
Email: seger@math.utah.edu
- Dr. Tom Ranker (MS Advisor)
Professor, University of Hawaii at Manoa
Email: ranker@hawaii.edu
- Dr. Allan Strong (BS Advisor)
Assistant Professor, University of Vermont
Email: Allan.Strong@uvm.edu



April 6, 2018

To: *Applications in Plant Sciences* Editorial Board
From: Nalini Nadkarni, Professor
RE: Applicant for your Review Editorial Board

I am pleased to recommend Ms. Autumn Amici, a Candidate in our PhD program in the Department of Biology, for participation in your Editorial Review Board.

Ms. Amici has been a graduate student in my lab for four years, and has shown herself to be an exemplary student and emerging scientist. Her research concerns the ecology and population genetics of two species of tropical bromeliads in a tropical cloud forest/agriculture landscape. She has strong, broad general interests in forest ecology, tropical systems, and plant genetics.

During the course of her training in the Department of Biology, I have occasionally provided Ms. Amici to informally review manuscripts for publication. She has done an excellent job of making herself acquainted with the relevant literature and providing useful edits in her reviews. As a fourth-year graduate student, her own writing and scientific insights have increased to a level that recommends her to making a positive contribution to your editorial efforts.

Ms. Amici and I have discussed the time commitment that your specifications entails, and we have agreed that she will be able to take on the tasks associated with this opportunity without endangering or stressing her current commitments to finishing her dissertation work.

Thank you.

Nalini Nadkarni
Professor