



College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Department of Biology

220 Bartram Hall
PO Box 118525
Gainesville, FL 32611

Dr. Theresa Culley, Editor-in-Chief
APPS Editorial Board
The Botanical Society of America
PO Box 299
St. Louis, MO 63166

May 3, 2018

I would like to respectfully submit my application for the position of Reviewing Editor for *Applications in Plant Sciences*. I was recently referred to the position by Dr. Sally Chambers, a member of the outgoing board.

As graduate student at the University of Florida (PhD) and University of North Carolina at Wilmington (MS), I have passionately pursued scientific research and published manuscripts on topics I find both exciting and novel. I've worked in depth in the fields of phylogenetics and ecology, employing both standard and novel analytical approaches to interpret data. I have also worked as an English writing tutor, maintained a blog on popular science topics, and worked as a freelance writer, covering topics in biology and conservation (see CV for links).

While I thoroughly enjoy disentangling natural phenomena in the botanical sciences, I have come to realize during my tenure as a graduate student that it is the stories themselves that I am most passionate about. To that end, upon completion of my degree, I intend to pursue a career as an editor and writer for a popular science journal. The available position on the *APPS* editorial board would allow me to utilize the skills I have worked hard to develop through years of research, editing, and freelance writing, and would also offer the invaluable experience and mentorship that sets *APPS* apart from most other academic journals.

The Botanical Society of America (BSA) is an inextricable part of botany in North America, and I can think of no other organization that strives as highly to foster science and open communication among scientists, including early career researchers. I have enjoyed immensely my previous experiences working with the BSA, including volunteering as a PlantingScience mentor and developing new curricula through the PlantingScience Fellowship, and I am thrilled at the prospect of continuing to serve the society by working with *APPS*. I am at a point in my PhD program where I will have sufficient time available to devote to this editorial position, as I will have completed all of my field work by the starting date of September 2018 and will largely be focused on writing for my remaining two years at the University of Florida.

If there is any additional information you need, please do not hesitate to contact me, and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jerald Pinson'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Jerald Pinson
Ph.D. candidate

CURRICULUM VITAE

JERALD PINSON

Department of Biology • University of Florida
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jbp4166@ufl.edu • (903) 767-8331

I. Education

University of Florida (2014- present)

- Department – Biology
- GPA – 3.42
- Service –
 - Member of fundraising committee for the Biology GSA (April 2015 – April 2018)
 - Graduate student representative for Ecosystems Ecology candidate search committee (2018).
- Terminal degree – PhD (in progress)
- Advisor – Emily Sessa

University of North Carolina at Wilmington (2012 - 2014)

- Department – Biology
- GPA – 3.694
- Service –
 - Treasurer of Graduate Student Association (GSA) (July 2013 – June 2014)
 - Biology GSA representative to the University GSA (July 2013 – June 2014)
- Terminal degree – M.S.
- Advisor – Eric Schuettpelz

Stephen F. Austin State University (2010 – 2012)

- Major – Biology
- Minor – Park recreation management
- GPA – 3.32
- Service – President of Botany Club (January 2012 – May 2012)
- Terminal degree – B.S.

Northeast Texas Community College (2008 - 2009)

- Major – 1 ½ years general studies
- GPA – 3.56

II. Publications

Grusz, A., **Pinson, J.**, and Pryer, K. *In prep.* Development of microsatellite markers for the apomictic triploid fern, *Myriopteris lindheimeri* (Pteridaceae).

Pinson, J., and Schuettpelz, E. (2016). Unraveling the origin of the appalachian gametophyte, *Vittaria appalachiana*. *American Journal of Botany*, 103: 668-676.

Pinson, J., Chambers, S., Nitta, J., Kuo, L. Y. and Sessa, E. (2017). The separation of generations: Biology and biogeography of long-lived, sporophyteless gametophytes. *International Journal of Plant Sciences*, 178: 1-18.

Pinson, J., Chambers, S., and Sessa, E. (2017). *Vittaria graminifolia* (Pteridaceae) and *Didymoglossum petersii* (Hymenophyllaceae) in Broxton Rocks, GA. *American Fern Journal*.

Pinson, J., Manchester, S., and Sessa, E. *In revision*. *Culcita remberi*, a tree fern from the Miocene of Idaho. *International Journal of Plant Sciences*.

Schuettpelz, E., Chen, C. W., Kessler, M., **Pinson, J.**, Johnson, G., Davila, A., Cochran, A. T., Huiet, A. L., and Pryer, K. M. (2016). A revised generic classification of vittarioid ferns (Pteridaceae) based on molecular micromorphological and geographic data. *Taxon*, 65: 708-722.

III. Grants and Awards

NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (DDIG) (2016)

Florida Native Plant Society Research Grant (2016)

PlantingScience Fellowship (2016)

University of Florida Carrie Lynn Yoder Scholarship (2016)

Sigma Xi grant in aid of research (2015)

Earl Core Student Research Award of the Southern Appalachian Botanical Society (2015)

University of Florida 3MT thesis presentation, 1st place (2015)

- Link to awards page:
<http://news.ufl.edu/archive/2015/04/jerald-pinson-wins-ufs-second-annual-three-minute-thesis-competition.php>

University of Florida Graduate Student Fellowship (2014 – 2018)

Pteridological Section and American Fern Society Student Travel Award (2014)

IV. Teaching Experience

- F16–S18 BOT2800C: Plants in Human Affairs lab (UF)
F14–S16 BSC2010L: Integrated Principles of Biology lab (UF)
S14 BIO335L: Genetics lab (UNCW)
S13 BIO201L: Principles of Biology lab (UNCW)
F12 BIO366L: Ecology lab (UNCW)

V. Relevant Work Experience

6. **Title:** Student mentor
Organization: PlantingScience, Botanical Society of America
Period: September 2014 – May 2015
5. **Title:** Writing tutor
Organization: UNCW Academic Learning Center
Period: May 2013 – May 2014
4. **Title:** Research assistant
Organization: UNCW, under Eric Schuettpelz, PhD through funds from an NSF grant
Period: May 2013 – December 2013
3. **Title:** Volunteer
Organization: UNCW greenhouse
Period: Spring, 2012
2. **Title:** Writing tutor
Organization: SFASU Writing Center
Period: September 2011 – May 2012
1. **Title:** Intern
Organization: National Park Service at Kingsley Plantation in Jacksonville, FL
Period: Summer, 2010

V. Presentations (* denotes invited talk; presenting author underlined)

- 2018 *Pinson, J. A natural history of fern gametophytes. Sarasota Fern Society, Sarasota, FL.
- 2017 Pinson, J., Possley, J. and Sessa, E. Florida's sinkholes and the separation of generations in ferns. Florida Native Plant Society annual conference, River Ranch, FL.
- 2017 Pinson, J., Possley, J. and Sessa, E. Florida's sinkholes and the separation of

generations in ferns. Florida Rare Plant Task Force meeting, Sarasota, FL.

- 2017 ***Pinson, J.** A natural history of fern gametophytes. Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society, Houston, TX.
- 2017 **Sigel, E. M.**, Grusz, A., **Pinson, J.**, and Schuettpelz, E. A phylogenetic approach to assessing the evolution of genomic repetitive elements across the fern family pteridaceae. XIX International Botanical Congress, Shenzhen, China.
- 2016 **Pinson, J.**, Possley, J. and Sessa, E. Florida's sinkholes and the separation of generations in ferns. Botany, Savannah, GA.
- 2015 ***Pinson, J.** The separation of generations: on the biogeography of long-lived fern gametophytes. Next Generation Pteridology, Washington, D. C.
- 2015 **Grusz, A. J.**, **Pinson, J.** and Windham, M. D. Exploring genotypic diversity in widespread apomictic species: a case study in the xeric-adapted fern, *Myriopteris lindheimeri* (Pteridaceae). Next Generation Pteridology, Washington, D. C.
- 2014 **Pinson, J.** and Schuettpelz, E. Origin of *Vittaria appalachiana*, the "Appalachian gametophyte." Botany, Boise, ID.

VI. Popular Science and Environmental Writing

Scientific Blog

- **Topics:** Botany, paleobotany, natural history
- **Link to site:** www.allisleaf.com

Freelance writer for the popular science organization Massive (2017 – present)

- **Topics:** Botany, biogeography
- **Link to writer's page:** <https://massivesci.com/people/jerald-pinson/>

Freelance writer for One Green Planet (2016 – 2017)

- **Topics:** Conservation
- **Link to writer's page:** http://www.onegreenplanet.org/author/jerald_pinson

Pinson, J. (2018). Botany 2018 Fern Field Trip. *Fiddlehead Forum*, 45(1): 9.

Pinson, J. (2017). About Ferns. *American Fern Society*.
<https://www.amerfernsoc.org/about-ferns/>

Pinson, J. and Krieg, C. (2017). Fern Foray 2016. *Fiddlehead Forum*, 44(1): 4-7.

Pinson, J. (2015). Moonworts and Adder's Tongue – An Exploration of the C-Value Paradox and polyploidy in ferns. *Fiddlehead Forum*, 43(1): 1-3.

VII. Manuscript Review

American Fern Journal, International Journal of Plant Sciences, Phytotaxa, Caryologia, Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution.

May 4, 2018

Dr. Theresa Culley
Editor-in-Chief, *Applications in Plant Sciences*
Department of Biological Sciences
University of Cincinnati

Dear Dr. Culley,

I am thrilled to write this letter in support of **Jerald Pinson's** application to join the editorial review board of *Applications in Plant Sciences*. Jerald is a 4th year PhD student in my lab in the Biology Department at the University of Florida (UF), and he successfully passed his qualifying exams in the fall of 2016. Jerald is a systematics graduate student with extensive writing experience and a strong publication record, including both formal scientific literature and informal popular science pieces for public audiences. He would be an excellent addition to the journal's editorial board, and this experience would be extremely beneficial to him, as Jerald plans to pursue a career in science writing after completing his PhD, and he is eager to obtain formal experience with editing, reviewing, and the publication industry generally.

Jerald has published several papers resulting from his Masters and PhD degree research, including most recently in the *American Fern Journal* (1) and *International Journal of Plant Sciences* (2, 3). He has also written several successful grant proposals, including for a Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (DDIG) from the U.S. National Science Foundation. He is one of my go-to in-house editors for my own papers before I submit them; I rely on his knowledge of plant systematics and phylogenetics and careful eye for detail, and his feedback is always thoughtful, insightful, and constructive. My other students and postdocs have followed my lead and frequently seek him out for advice on their manuscripts. He has also reviewed formally for several journals, including *American Fern Journal*, *International Journal of Plant Sciences*, *Phytotaxa*, *Caryologia*, and *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*.

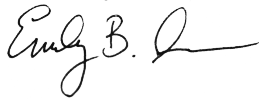
In addition to his formal scientific publications, Jerald is committed to public engagement and outreach, primarily through popular science writing. He maintains a blog on which he posts his pieces (<http://www.allisleaf.com>), and he also regularly writes commissioned pieces for One Green Planet (http://www.onegreenplanet.org/author/jerald_pinson) and Massive Science (<https://massivesci.com/people/jerald-pinson>), and has been invited to submit several pieces to the *Fiddlehead Forum*, the newsletter for members of the American Fern Society (which includes both professional and non-professional botanists). Jerald has an engaging and informative writing style and loves sharing his passion for plant science with multiple audiences via both formal and informal venues.

Finally, Jerald is an outstanding scientist and a very valued colleague and coauthor, and he will bring an impressive set of expertise to this editorial position that will make him well-suited to

handle a wide range of manuscripts. He has extensive laboratory experience and is familiar with all the standard techniques in molecular phylogenetics, including data analysis and interpretation, and has also conducted fieldwork and experiments on plant ecology and physiology. This broad background will make him a fantastic addition to the editorial review board for *Applications in Plant Sciences*. He also has excellent time management skills and responds punctually and reliably to all requests – traits highly desirable in an editor or reviewer! Given his interest in scientific writing in all its forms, Jerald is extremely excited about the possibility of joining the *APPS* editorial board, and I give him my very highest recommendation for this position.

Please let me know if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,



Emily B. Sessa
Assistant Professor

Selected publications referenced above:

1. Pinson JB, SM Chambers, and EB Sessa. (2017) *Vittaria graminifolia* (Pteridaceae) and *Didymoglossum peterseii* (Hymenopyllaceae) in Broxton Rocks, GA. *American Fern Journal* 107(4): 257–264.
2. Pinson JB, SM Chambers, J Nitta, L-Y Kuo, and EB Sessa. (2017) The separation of generations: Biology and biogeography of long-lived, sporophyteless fern gametophytes. *International Journal of Plant Sciences*. 178(1): 1–18.
3. Pinson JB, SR Manchester, and EB Sessa. (expected 2018) *Culcita remberi* sp. nov., a tree fern from the Miocene of northern Idaho. *International Journal of Plant Sciences*. Accepted pending minor revisions.