ELLEN J. QUINLAN

Department of Biology
Wake Forest University
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EDUCATION

2025 Ph.D. in Biology, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC, USA

Dissertation: *The evolutionary ecology of Andean trees across elevation gradients and through time* (Advisor: Miles R. Silman)

2018 M.S. in Biology, Western Carolina University
2014 B.S. in Environmental Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

PUBLICATIONS

Quinlan, E. J. and Silman, M.R. Relative effective population sizes and Quaternary demographic histories of sympatric, congeneric Andean trees. [*In prep*].

Quinlan, E.J., Pease, J.B., Sallo Bravo, J., Fuentes, A.F., Farfan-Rios, W., and Silman, M.R. Upslope diversification and gene flow among congeneric Andean trees. [*Under review at New Phytologist, preprint available* - https://doi.org/10.1101/2025.09.22.677938].

Quinlan, E.J., Neill, D.A., Rivas-Torres, G., and Silman, M.R. (2025). Assessing Rarity: genomic insights for population assessments and conservation of the most poorly known Neotropical trees. *Biological Conservation*, 309, 11280. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2025.111280

Quinlan, E.J., Layman, C.A., and Silman, M.R. (2025). Climate-mediated hybridization and the future of Andean forests. *Journal of Biogeography*, 52(3). https://doi.org/10.1111/jbi.15113

Quinlan, E. J., Mathews, K.G., Collins, B., and Young, R. (2020). Phylogenetic divergence and ecophysiological variation in the disjunct Kalmia buxifolia (sand-myrtle, Ericaceae). *Systematic Botany*, 45(4), 900-912. https://doi.org/10.1600/036364420X16033962925277

AWARDS AND HONORS

2025 ATBC New Phytologist Award for Best Oral Presentation in Plant Biology
2022 Graduate Teaching Award, Department of Biology, Wake Forest University
2020 Graduate Teaching Award, Department of Biology, Wake Forest University

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2024 Dean's Biology Research Fellowship, Wake Forest University ($19,500)
2024 Graduate School Global Travel Grant, Wake Forest University ($2,500)

2024 Alumni Travel Award, Wake Forest University ($800)
2024 Elton C. Cocke Travel Fund, Wake Forest University ($700)
2023 Garden Club of America Fellowship in Tropical Botany ($5,500)
2023 Graduate Richter Scholarship, Wake Forest University ($7,500)
2023 Vecellio Research Grant, Wake Forest University ($2,000)
2022 Student Research Award, Center for Energy, the Environment, and Sustainability, Wake Forest University ($2,000)
2022 Vecellio Research Grant, Wake Forest University ($2,000)
2021 Pilot Research Grant, Wake Forest University—Co-submitted with PI Miles Silman ($10,000)
2018 Shinn Research Grant, North Carolina Native Plant Society ($1,000)
2017 Grant-In-Aid of Research, Highlands Biological Station ($1,050)

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

Quinlan, E. J., Pease, J. B., Sallo Bravo, J., Fuentes, A. F., Springer, M., Farfan-Rios, W. and Silman, M. R. **(**2025**)**. "Patterns of diversification and gene flow across an Andes elevation gradient." 61st Annual Meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation, Oaxaca, Mexico. [Talk]. *Awarded Best Oral Presentation in Plant Biology

Quinlan, E. J., Pease J. B., Fuentes A., Sallo Bravo, J., Palomino Cardenas A., Farfan Rios, W., Silman, M. R. (2024). Patterns of elevational niche diversification among sympatric, congeneric Andean trees. Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America, Long Beach, CA, United States. [Poster].

Quinlan, E. J. (2023). "Altitudinal assembly, gene flow, and demographic histories of Andean trees." Andes Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research Group 20th Anniversary Meeting, Manu Biological Station, Peru. [Workshop Talk].

Quinlan, E. J. (2022). "Molecular tools and techniques for population analyses and conservation of rare Neotropical trees." Universidad San Francisco de Quito (USFQ), College of Biology and the Environment. [Invited Remote Talk].

Quinlan, E. J., Mathews, K. G., and Collins, B. (2018). "The genetic and ecophysiological diversity of Kalmia buxifolia (sand-myrtle) and implications of climate change." Annual Meeting of the Association of Southeastern Biologists, Myrtle Beach, SC, United States. [Poster].

Quinlan, E. J. (2017). "The ecophysiology and migratory history of the disjunct, high elevation rock-outcrop species Kalmia buxifolia." Southern and Central Appalachian High Elevation Restoration Workshop, Gatlinburg, TN, United States. [Talk].

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Instructor, Forsyth Tech Community College

2026 General Biology I (Instructor of Record)

Guest Lecturer, Wake Forest University

2022–2024 Biology II (Introduction to Ecology and Evolution)

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Wake Forest University

2024 Neurobiology Lab
2023 Microbiology Lab
2022 Biology and the Human Condition Lab (Non-majors' course)
2020–2021 Biology II Lab (Introduction to Ecology and Evolution)
2019–2023 Biology I Lab (Introduction to macromolecules, cells, tissue, and resources)
2018–2019 Comparative Biology Lab

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Western Carolina University

2017–2018 Genetics Lab
2017–2018 Human Biology Lab
2016–2018 Principles of Biology II Lab

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH MENTORSHIP

2024–2025 Maddie Volinski (herbarium)
2023–2025 Mia Springer (genomics and FT-IR spectroscopy)
2023–2024 Mckenzie Campbell (genomics)
2017–2018 Mary Caitlin Massie (ecophysiology)

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

2023–2025 Graduate Representative to the Campus Tree Advisory Committee, WFU
2022–2023 Graduate Representative to the Biology Faculty, WFU Biology Department
2021–2023 Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior Seminar Organizer, WFU Biology Department
2020–2021 Graduate Representative to the Graduate Committee, WFU Biology Department

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

2025 WFU Herbarium Assistant Curator
2024 INCLU1x: The Inclusive STEM Teaching Project – NSF-funded inclusive STEM teaching course offered through Boston University and Northwestern University
2024 Professional Development Workshop, CareerVolt (invited)
2021 RADseq Data Analysis, Physalia Courses
2021 Inferring Demographic History from Population Genomics Data, Physalia Courses
2017 NSF L.E.A.R.N Mentorship Training Program, WCU
2014 Highland Botanical Garden Intern
2014 Garden Assistant, North Carolina Botanical Garden, UNC-Chapel Hill
2013 Independent Research Internship, Coweeta Hydrological Laboratory

FIELDWORK

2023	Parque Nacional del Cotapata, Bolivia
2019–2022	Parque Nacional del Manu, Peru
2021	Parque Nacional Cueva de los Guacharos, Colombia
2017	New Jersey Pine Barrens, NJ, USA
2016–2018	Southern Appalachians & Great Smoky Mountain National Park, NC, USA
2016–2018	Carolina Sandhills and Coastal Plain, NC & SC, USA
2013	Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory, NC, USA
2012	Sagebrush Steppe in Glacier National Park, MT, USA

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Miles R. Silman, Ph.D., Professor and Andrew Sabin Chair of Conservation Biology
Department of Biology, Wake Forest University
Email: silmanmr@wfu.edu
Phone: 336-758-5596

James B. Pease, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology, The Ohio State University
Email: pease.25@osu.edu
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Paul V.A. Fine, Ph.D., Professor
Department of Integrative Biology, University of California at Berkeley
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