


Riley Pizza

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Education

- 2020 - present **Doctor of Philosophy** – Michigan State University (MSU)
Department: Plant Biology & Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior (dual degree)
Thesis: Testing if Non-local Seed Provenancing Strategies can Meet Restoration Goals
Advisor: Dr. Lars Brudvig
- 2017 - 2020 **Master of Science** – University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD)
Department: Integrative Biosciences
Thesis: The Effects of Cultivation on Seed for Restoration
Advisor: Dr. Julie Etterson
- 2012 - 2016 **Bachelor of Arts** – Kalamazoo College
Department: Biology (major) and English (minor)
Thesis: Microclimate effects of the Germination of Pitchers Thistle
Advisor: Dr. Binney Girdler

Publications

In Review

Smith, O., Davis, K., Waterman, R., [Pizza, R.](#), Dobson, K., Foster, B., ... & Davis, C. Journals must expand access to peer review data. *TREE scientific life*.

Published/ In press

Smith, O., Davis, K., [Pizza, R.](#), Waterman, R., Dobson, K., Foster, B., ... & Davis, C. (2023). Peer review perpetuates barriers for historically excluded groups. *Nature Ecology & Evolution*, 1-12.

[Pizza, R.](#), Foster, J., & Brudvig, L. (2023). Where should they come from? Where should they go? Several measures of seed source locality fail to predict plant establishment in early prairie restorations. *Ecological Solutions and Evidence*, 4(2), e12223.

[Pizza, R.](#), Espeland, E., & Etterson, J. (2021). Eight generations of native seed cultivation reduces plant fitness relative to the wild progenitor population. *Evolutionary applications*, 14(7), 1816-1829.

Presentations

- 2023 Ecological Society of America conference, Portland OR.
- 2023 Biology on Tap, Bath MI
- 2023 Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior Symposium, MSU
- 2023 FAST fellows symposium, MSU
- 2022 Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior Colloquium Series, MSU
- 2022 Ecological Society of America conference, Montreal, BC.
- 2022 Dissertation proposal seminar, MSU
- 2021 Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior Colloquium Series, MSU
- 2021 Transgender Day of Visibility Research Symposium, MSU
- 2020 Swenson College of Science and Engineering Seminar Series, UMD

2019	Botany Conference, Tucson, Az.
2019	Climate Futures Conference, UMD
2018	Botany Conference, Rochester Mn.
2018	Midwest Ecology and Evolution Conference, Kalamazoo Mi.

Teaching Experience

Spring 2024	Graduate Teaching Assistant- Organismal and Population Biology (MSU)
Fall 2023	Graduate Teaching Assistant- Honors Organismal Biology Laboratory (MSU)
Summer 2023	Graduate Teaching Assistant- Field Ecology Lab (UM)
Spring 2023	Graduate Teaching Assistant- Organismal and Population Biology (MSU)
Fall 2022	Graduate Teaching Assistant- Plants of Michigan (MSU)
Summer 2022	Graduate Teaching Assistant - Plant Systematics (MSU)
2021-2022	Graduate Teaching Assistant - Organismal Biology Laboratory (MSU)
2019-2020	Graduate Teaching Coordinator - Biology in Society (UMD)
Fall 2019	Graduate Teaching Assistant - Ecology Laboratory (UMD)
2017-2019	Graduate Teaching Assistant - Biology in Society (UMD)

Awards and Fellowships

2023	MSU Graduate School KBS Summer Research Fellowship	\$1300
2023	Bessey award for outstanding graduate researcher in plant biology	\$750
2023	Department of Plant Biology Paul Taylor Travel Award	\$1400
2022	ESA Restoration Poster Contest winner	\$300
2022	Department of Plant Biology Paul Taylor Travel Award	\$1600
2022	Out to Innovate Graduate Research Fellowship	\$3500
2022	Supplemental MSU Plant Science Fellowship	\$2800
2022	Kellogg Biological Station George H. Lauff Scholarship Fund	\$1250
2022	T. Wayne & Kathryn Porter Graduate Fellowship	\$1000
2022-2023	MSU FAST fellowship	\$5000
2021	MSU Graduate School KBS Summer Research Fellowship	\$1350
2021	Supplemental MSU Plant Science Fellowship	\$3000
2020-2021	Michigan State University Plant Science Fellowship	\$30,000
2020	UMD Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Award	\$500
2018	Sigma Xi Grant in Aid of Research	\$1000
2018	Garden Club of America Ecological Restoration Fellowship	\$8500

Students Mentored

2023-2024	Sara Moledor, MSU Plant Biology Peer Mentorship Program
2023-2024	Sean Ward, MSU research student
2022- 2023	Lourdes Lopez, MSU Plant Biology Peer Mentorship Program
Summer 2022	Dani Gafford, REU student
2021-2022	Maya Wilson Brown, MSU Plant Biology Peer Mentorship Program
2018-2019	Devon Theis, UMD BURST student
2018-2019	Anna Hall, UMD BURST student
Summer 2017	Sydni Farniok, UMD Research Assistant

Leadership and Department Service Work

2023-2024	Plant Biology Graduate Student Organization Co-president
2023-2024	Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior Program Symposium Co-Organizer

2022-2025	STEM Education Journal Club co-leader
2022-2023	Plant Biology Graduate Program Graduate Committee Representative
2021-2023	Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior Program Recruitment Liaison
2021-2023	QT-Grad Secretary
2021-2024	Plant Biology Graduate Student Peer Mentor
Spring 2021	Ecology Evolution and Behavior Research Symposium Committee Member
2019-2020	Integrative Biosciences/ Water Resources Program Art Show Organizer
2019-2020	University of Minnesota Duluth STEM Discovery Day Planning Committee

Educational Outreach Activities

Mar. 2023	Trans & Gender-diverse patients' panelist for MSU OM students
Feb. 2020	Northern Minnesota Regional science fair judge
Aug. 2020	Arrowhead Regional Corrections Outreach activities
May 2019	Lake Superior Research Symposium volunteer
May 2019	Swenson Science and Engineering Day volunteer
May 2019	Lakewood Elementary Environmental Education Day Volunteer
April 2019	University of Minnesota Duluth STEM Discovery Day Volunteer
March 2019	North Star Academy Science Fair Judge
Feb. 2019	Northern Minnesota Regional Science Fair Judge
Dec. 2018	Copper Elementary Outreach Activities
July 2018	Geology of Minnesota Lester Park Summer Camp Volunteer
May 2018	Duluth Elementary Schools Science on Deck Volunteer
May 2018	Lakewood Elementary Environmental Education Day Volunteer
Feb. 2018	Northern Minnesota Regional Science Fair Judge

Professional Organizations

2023-2024	British Ecological Society
2021-2024	Ecological Society of America
2020-2021	Botanical Society of America
2017-Present	Out to Innovate

Journals Reviewed For

Restoration Ecology
The American Biology Teacher
Journal of Applied Ecology