

December student spotlight:



Jacob Golan is a PhD candidate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, originally from Long Island, NY. He is currently working in the lab of Dr. Anne Pringle, where his research focuses on how fungi move – from across landscapes to across continents. He approaches questions regarding dispersal from a biophysical, genetic, genomic, and ecological perspective in order to

better understand fungal biogeography and population dynamics. He is also interested in the intersection of microbial biology and intellectual property rights. During his time as a graduate student, Jacob has received several awards, including the NSF GRFP and the Chateaubriand Fellowship in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics & Biology-Health (STEM). After completing his PhD, Jacob would like to go to law school and eventually work in legal academia on the intersection of microbial biotechnology and intellectual property rights

What is your favorite fungus and why?

Hemileia vastatrix is one of the coolest! Putative transoceanic dispersal + coffee = amazing!

What is your favorite fact/thing about fungi?

Supposedly fungi won the American revolution...according to some, the British fleet was overrun by *Serpula lacrymans*

Who is your mycology role model?

Tie between Rytas Vilgalys and Anne Pringle

Any great stories from field work (funny/interesting/something that stuck out to you)?

If editing manuscripts counts as field work, then I enjoyed editing my first chapter with my advisor in the bathroom of a former post-doc's house. We needed a quiet space and we were down to the last minute.

What do you like to do in your free time? What are your hobbies?

I really like to read and to learn languages. Russian literature is by far my favorite

What are you passionate about?

I love working with undergraduates – it's a great way to get extra help with your research and also to practice your teaching skills