**Ashton Leo**

MS Student, Plant Sciences

School of Plant Sciences

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**I. EDUCATION**

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| **M.S., Plant Pathology** (anticipated 2019)  The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ. Advisor: A. Elizabeth Arnold | 2017 - present |
| **B.S., Plant Sciences**  The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ. | 2016 |

**II. PROFESSIONAL & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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| **Outreach Coordinator, University of Arizona. Advisor: A. E. Arnold.** Designed and implemented multiple outreach programs with the local schools of Tucson, Az. Geared toward engagement of underrepresented youth in inquiry-based scientific discovery and real-world applications. | 2017 |
| **Research Assistant, University of Arizona. Advisor: A. E. Arnold.** Analyzed species abundance and diversity data, assisted in fungal trait assays and field collections, and gained experience with microbiology techniques. | 2014 - 2016 |
| **Research Assistant, University of Arizona. Advisor: Judith Brown.** Analyzed bacterial species prevalence and pathogenicity for United States Department of Agriculture assisted in virus expression. | 2016 |
| **Research Volunteer, University of Arizona. Advisor: Ursula Schuch.** Assisted in the development of lettuce hydroponic agricultural system and semester-long maintenance. | 2016 |

**III. GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, & FELLOWSHIPS**

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| Sustainable Bioeconomy for Arid Regions (SBAR) Fellowship ($10,000) | 2018 - present |
| Pierson Graduate Fellowship ($6,833) | 2017 |
| Arizona Assurance Scholarship ($18,801 annually) | 2012 - 2016 |

**IV. PUBLICATIONS**

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| Leo AB, Arnold AE (In preparation), Effect of disturbance on seed-associated microbes in semi-arid lands. *Journal of Ecology* |

**V. PRESENTATIONS**

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| SPLS Departmental seminar, Effect of disturbance on seed-associated microbes in semi-arid lands, anticipated fall 2018. |

**VI. TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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| **Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Arizona. Advisor: Barry Pryor. Course: Mushrooms, Molds, and Man.** Delivered a range of teaching and assessment activities. Contributed to the development of appropriate teaching materials to ensure content and methods of delivery meet learning objectives. |

2018

**VII. OUTREACH EXPERIENCE**

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| **Fungi and Microbial Ecology (FAME) Workshop.** Developed a week-long outreach event for underrepresented groups in the STEM field. Designed multiple modules emphasizing the cultivation of scientific inquiry, real-world application of environmental science, and educated youth on diverse biological topics. Annual. Served 312 students. | 2017 - present |
| **Biotechnology Lab for Arizona Students and Teachers (BLAST**). Established and formalized a three-week long summer program for underrepresented youth from local high schools. Designed to review current literature, learn standard molecular biology techniques, and showcase scientific process through independent project design, implementation, and presentations. Annual. Served 57 students. | 2015 - present |
| **Laboratory Mentor.** Guided incoming undergraduate students through the standard lab practices. Assisted with minority high school independent projects from design to completion. Served 24 students. | 2014 - present |
| **Science and Nature in Tandem for Youth (SANITY) Program.** Designed and implemented an overnight science program at the Southwest Research Station for underrepresented youth from high schools around Tucson, Az. Navigated students through natural environment and surveyed critical ecological systems. Annual. Served 126 students. | 2012 - present |

**VIII. PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

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| International Symbiosis Society | 2018 - present |
| American Society for Horticulture | 2015 – present |
| American Phytopathological Society | 2015 – present |

**IX. PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOPS**

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| **Addressing Implicit Bias in The Academy**. University of Arizona, Department of Psychology. Jeff Stone (Ph.D). Katie Wolsiefer (Ph.D). | 2018 |

**X. PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES**

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| International Symbiosis Society Congress | 2018 |
| **“Leave Your Mark.”** The University of Arizona’s International  Cities/Counties Management Association Chapter. | 2018 |
| Desert Horticultural Conference | 2017 - 2018 |