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**Claudia A. Paez**

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**Education**

<b>Ph.D.</b> Plant Pathology	University of Florida	(Expected Graduation) Dec 2022
<b>M.Sc.</b> Forest Pathology	University of Florida	Dec 2016
Minor in Plant Pathology		
<b>B.Sc.</b> Forestry Engineering	Universidad Católica de Temuco	Oct 2007

**Professional Experience**

Aug 2018 - Present **Research Graduate Assistant in Plant Pathology (Dr. Matthew E. Smith's Lab).** Genetic Diversity of the Fungi *Armillaria* species in Southeastern United States. University of Florida, Phylogenetic and Pathogenicity studies. Gainesville, FL

Sept 2017 - July 2018 **Research Assistant in Plant Pathology, Dr. Phil Harmon's Lab.** Isolation of fungi from plant tissue, sensitivity test for fungicide, lab organization, assistant in field research projects. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Aug 2014 - Jan 2017 **Research Graduate Assistant in the Forest Pathology, Dr. Jason Smith's Lab.** Etiology of a slash pine disease outbreak in Orlando, Florida. Tree disease diagnostics and research using traditional and molecular methods. Field, lab and greenhouse experiments. Forest Pathology Laboratory. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

May 2012 - Nov 2013 **Technician in the Forest Genomics, Dr. Gary Peter's Lab.** Obtaining, processing and analysis of x-ray wood samples, x-ray micro computed tomography scanner, DNA extraction, RNA extraction. Genetics Institute. University of Florida. Gainesville, FL

Feb 2011 - April 2012 **Technician in the Forest Pathology, Dr. Jason Smith's Lab.** PCR, DNA extraction, isolation of fungi from plant tissue. School of Forest Resources and Conservation. University of Florida. Gainesville, FL

Aug 2010 - Oct 2010 **Technician in the Forest Genomics, Dr. Gary Peter's Lab.** Measurements of ultrasonic velocity through pine wood samples and chromosome counting in pines. Genetics Institute. University of Florida. Gainesville, FL

Jan 2010 - April 2011 **Community Assistant in the UF Family Housing Department.** Planning, organizing and executing community programs for graduate students and families living in university housing. Family and Graduate Housing Department. University of Florida. Gainesville, FL

Jan 2009 - Dec 2009 **Student Assistant in the UF Family Housing.** Supporting national and international graduate students with university housing issues. Family and Graduate Housing Department. University of Florida. Gainesville, FL

- Feb 2009 - April 2009 **Technician in the Cooperative of Forest Genetic Research Program (CFGRP).** Morphology on pine needles. School of Forest Resources and Conservation. University of Florida. Gainesville, FL
- Oct 2008 - Jan 2009 **Technician in the Forest Genomics Lab.** Measuring ultrasonic velocity through pine wood. Genetics Institute. University of Florida. Gainesville, FL
- Oct 2007 - Dec 2007 **Volunteer in the Laboratory of Molecular Systematic and Evolutionary Genetics.** Measuring stomatal morphology and density. Biology Department, University of Florida. Gainesville, FL

### **Scientific Publications**

- Paez, C., and J.A. Smith.** First report of *Diplodia sapinea* and *Diplodia scrobiculata* causing an outbreak of tip blight on slash pine in Florida. ***In press***
- Paez, C., E.J. Jokela, M. Smith, and J.A. Smith.** Role of nitrogen on a *Diplodia* tip blight outbreak in Central Florida. ***Manuscript in Preparation***
- Paez, C., and J.A. Smith.** 2017. Biscogniauxia (Hypoxylon) canker or dieback in Trees. ***UF EDIS.*** Publication <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr407>
- Paez, C.,** 2015. Biology of *Conidiobolus thromboides*. ***Encyclopedia of life (EOL) Online Encyclopedia*** Publication [www.eol.org/pages/305296/details](http://www.eol.org/pages/305296/details)

### **Poster Presentation at Meetings**

- Paez, C., A. Black, M. Kasson, and J.A. Smith.** 2017. Testing pathogenicity of *Fusarium* spp. associated with exotic *Euwallacea* in *Acer negundo* and *Magnolia grandiflora*. ***Poster Presentation.*** Southern Appalachian Forest Entomology/Pathologist Seminar, Crossnore, North Carolina. March 2-3, 2017.
- Paez, C., E.J. Jokela, and J.A. Smith.** 2016. Etiology and management of a *Diplodia* blight outbreak on slash pine in Florida. ***Poster Presentation.*** American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting, July 30-August 3, 2016.
- Paez, C., E.J. Jokela, and J.A. Smith.** 2015. Understanding and managing a *Diplodia* blight outbreak on slash pine in Florida. ***Poster Presentation.*** American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting, Pasadena, California. August 1-5, 2015.
- Paez, C., and J.A. Smith.** 2015. Etiology of a *Diplodia* blight outbreak on slash pine in Florida. ***Poster Presentation.*** School of Forestry Resource and Conservation, Graduate Student Symposium. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL. April 10, 2015

### **Oral Presentation at Meetings**

**Paez, C., and J.A. Smith.** 2016. Understanding a Diplodia blight outbreak on *Pinus elliottii* in Florida. ***Oral Presentation.*** Southern Appalachian Forest Entomology/Pathologist Seminar, Crossnore, North Carolina. March 3-4, 2016.

**Paez, C., and J.A. Smith.** 2015. Update on pine disease biology and management. ***Oral Presentation.*** Forest Biology Research Cooperative Annual Meeting. Austin Cary Forest Learning Center. Gainesville, Florida. September 16, 2015.

### **Grants, Awards and Fellowships**

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| <b>2018</b> | <b>Graduate School Preeminence Award (GSPA).</b> Plant Pathology Ph.D. graduate program at the University of Florida, Department of Plant Pathology. (\$34,000 per year) |
| <b>2017</b> | <b>Outstanding Master's Student of The Year.</b> School of Forest Resources and Conservation. University of Florida. Gainesville, FL                                     |
| <b>2016</b> | <b>Outstanding Academic Achievement.</b> For maintaining a 4.0 GPA. International Center. University of Florida. Gainesville, FL   |
| <b>2015</b> | <b>Outstanding Academic Achievement.</b> For maintaining a 4.0 GPA. International Center. University of Florida. Gainesville, FL   |
| <b>2015</b> | <b>Graduate Student Travel Grant.</b> School of Forestry Resource and Conservation (SFRC). University of Florida. Gainesville, FL (\$1,000)                              |
| <b>2015</b> | <b>Grinter Fellowship for Outstanding Graduate Students,</b> University of Florida (\$1,000)   |

### **Teaching**

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| <b>2017</b> | <b>Teaching Assistant of the course FOR4624C.</b> Forest Health Management. Teaching laboratory section of the course. Manager of the online system. Grading. Spring 2017.   |
| <b>2017</b> | <b>Guest lecture course FOR4624C.</b> Forest Health Management. Diplodia blight disease case of study. Spring 2017.  |
| <b>2016</b> | <b>Teaching Assistant of the course PLP6656C.</b> Fungal Biology. Teaching laboratory section of the course. Fall 2016.  |
| <b>2016</b> | <b>Teaching Assistant of the course FOR4624C.</b> Forest Health Management. Teaching laboratory section of the course. Manager of the online system. Coordinating lecture instructors. Organizer of debates project. Grading. Spring 2016. |
| <b>2016</b> | <b>Teaching Assistant of the course FOR3342C</b> Tree Biology. Laboratory support. Spring 2016.  |
| <b>2015</b> | <b>Teaching Assistant of the online course FOR6934</b> Forest Ecosystem Health. Support of lectures, field and laboratory activities. Manager of the online system. Grading homework and discussions. Fall 2015.                           |

**2015**      **Teaching Assistant of the course FOR6934** Forest Health Management. Support of lectures, field and laboratory activities. Spring 2015.

### **Outreach**

**2014-2017**    **4-H Forest Ecology Contest** – Coordinator of contest and training for K-12 students. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

**2014-2017**    **Forest Health Extension and Diagnostics** – field visits and laboratory processing of diagnostic samples for stakeholders. Gainesville, FL.

### **Training and Volunteering**

2018            Volunteer. School of Forest Resource and Conservation, University of Florida. Assistant in organization at the “Torreya Tree of Life” event, at Torreya State Park, FL.

2016            “Bark and Ambrosia Beetle Workshop”, University of Florida.

2014            “Southwide Forest Disease Workshop”, Andalusia, Alabama.

2008            English as a Foreign Language, University of Florida, Gainesville FL.

2004            Course: “Forest land appraisal”, Universidad de la Frontera, project of the Ministerial Regional Secretary in the Araucanía region, Chile.

2003            Organizer of a Regional Conference: Forest and Sustainability in the Araucanía Region, Temuco, Chile.

2003            Course: “Businesses’ incubator” Universidad Católica de Temuco, Temuco, Chile.

2002            Volunteer. Universidad Católica de Temuco, Chile 2002. Organizer and Assistant at the National Forestry Meeting.

### **Skills and Languages**

**Broad experience with: fungal pathogen culture, DNA extraction, PCR, sequencing, BLAST, data analysis, Koch’s postulates, microscopy and field work (Application of fungicide, design and setting forestry experiments).**

Software: Microsoft Office, Geneious, ImageJ, Software R and JMP.

Languages: Spanish (Native Tongue), English (professional proficiency)