

Jonathan “Luke” Bowles

Columbia, MO 65201 ▪ lukeb72303@gmail.com ▪ (601)-410-9851

EDUCATION

University of Missouri, *M.S. in Biological Sciences*, Columbia, MO Aug 2025-Present
Thesis research on sound-induced nectar changes in *Borago officinalis*
Minor in Teaching and Public Engagement

University of Georgia, Morehead Honors College, Athens, GA May 2025
Bachelor of Arts in Cognitive Science, Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy GPA: 3.99/4.00
Minors in Ecology and Spanish, Certificate in Environmental Ethics

Graduation Distinctions: Honors, Research Scholar, and Summa Cum Laude

JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE

News & Observer, *Science Journalist and Mass Media Fellow*, Raleigh, NC June 2026-Aug 2026

- Reported and wrote both daily news and feature-length science and conservation stories for a daily metro newspaper, covering North Carolina's threatened and endemic wildlife and research in the Triangle
- Filmed and edited 6 videos for social media, garnering over 50,000 views
- Completed a television interview on an endangered fish and freshwater mussel breeding program
- Selected as an AAAS Mass Media Fellow, one of a small national cohort trained in professional science journalism

Georgia Political Review, *Assistant Editor*, Athens, GA Sep 2021-May 2023

- Wrote feature magazine articles for print publication on local issues including recycling policy and free speech
- Edited over 20 articles for clarity of evidence, format, and grammar correctness

COMMUNICATIONS & PROGRAMMING EXPERIENCE

Xerces Society, *Ambassador* Sep 2025-Present

- Tabled and presented on invertebrate conservation and native pollinator biology
- Received over 20 hours of total training on science outreach, insect identification, and conservation

Instagram @BowlesBugs, *Science Communicator* Jun 2025-Present

- Created over 45 educational videos on insect behavior and various science topics
- Gained over 2,400 followers and 250,000 views

Environmental Ethics Certificate Program (EECP), *Undergraduate Ambassador* May 2024-May 2025

- Led philosopher's walks on the ethics of coffee and chocolate production, represented EECP at events

Georgia Youth Justice Coalition, *Social Media Manager*, Atlanta, GA Jun 2022-Feb 2023

- Organized and co-managed a team of 15 digital fellows to create daily content
- Hosted weekly meetings and tracked social media analytics for the largest student-led organization in GA
- Gained over 800 followers in 6 months and made over 500,000 impressions during election season

Patty Durand for Georgia PSC, *Social Media Intern*, Athens, GA Mar 2022-May 2022

- Created weekly posts for Meta platforms and scheduled advertisements at peak times

UNUM Fellowship Program, *Youth Cohort – Project Red Menstrual Equity Campus Project* Sep 2022-Aug 2025

- Selected as 1 of 20 students nationally to receive resources, training, and technical expertise
- Used a \$3,000 grant to construct 2 menstrual pantries to provide free products to college students

University of Georgia Philosophy Department, *Social Media Manager*, Athens, GA Nov 2021-Jan 2024

- Created posts weekly using Canva and Adobe Photoshop to share news, awards, and events
- Co-founded the University of Georgia Philosophy Department Instagram account

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Sound-Induced Nectar Changes in Borage Flowers, *Graduate Research Assistant*, Columbia, MO Aug 2025-Present

- Measured whether borage flowers increase nectar sweetness in response to pollinator wingbeat vibrations

Morals and Emotions in Students' Socioscientific Reasoning, *Research Rotation*, Columbia, MO Dec 2025-Aug 2026

- Assessed how various factors influence biology students' reasoning on controversial science issues

Task Choice Flexibility in Ants , <i>Harvard Research Intern</i> , Cambridge, MA	Jun 2024-Jul 2024
Assisted with behavioral experiments on clonal raider ants (<i>Ooceraea biroi</i>) including recording experiments, animal husbandry, and video analysis	
Optimization of Tool Use and Collective Learning in Fire Ants , <i>Student Researcher</i> , Athens, GA	Aug 2023-Aug 2025
- Designed and conducted a novel experimental assay to test optimization of tool use behaviors in red fire ants - Showed that fire ants will optimize tool use behavior over time due to experience and learning	

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Biology of Bees (HONS 2452) , <i>Teaching Assistant</i>	Jan 2026-Present
- Co-designed class materials including hands-on activities and science communication workshops - Graded assignments weekly for 20 students while also leading daily discussions	
Behavioral Biology (BIO 4640) , <i>Guest Lecturer</i>	Oct 2025
- Presented a novel presentation on non-neural cognition to an undergraduate/graduate combined class - Used active learning techniques like think-pair-share and formative quizzes	
University of Georgia Department of Academic Enhancement , <i>Peer Tutor</i> , Athens, GA	Nov 2022-Nov 2023
Tutored students for 8 hours weekly in various subjects including Spanish, philosophy, and linguistics	

SELECT OUTREACH EVENTS

Bee Day , <i>Durham Farmer's Market</i> , Durham, NC	June 2026
Engaged over 150 booth visitors and educated visitors on native pollinator ecology	
Mizzou Adventure Club , <i>CV Riley Entomological Society</i> , Columbia, MO	Mar 2026
Introduced 50+ children (grades K–5) to entomology careers through interactive talks with live insects	
Science on Tap , <i>Xerces Society</i> , Columbia, MO	Mar 2026
Presented on native bee conservation to the largest audience in the program's history	
Young Scientists Expo , <i>Xerces Society</i> , Columbia, MO	Feb 2026
- Tabled and discussed the importance of protecting native pollinators to over 300 children - Helped children color butterfly masks, spoke to parents, and played trivia mini games	

AWARDS

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship	May 2026
Honorable mention for “Exploring Consequences of Sound-Induced Nectar Changes in <i>Borago officinalis</i>”	
AAAS Catalyzing Advocacy in Science and Engineering (CASE) Workshop	Apr 2026
Selected to represent MU at the annual AAAS science policy workshop	
University of Missouri (UM) Molecular Life Sciences Fellowship	Aug 2025-present
Four-year fully funded research fellowship position with embedded conference and rotation funding	
UGA Foundation Fellowship	Aug 2021-May 2025
UGA's premier undergraduate scholarship covering full cost of attendance	
UGA Presidential Award of Excellence	Apr 2025
Highest honor given to less than 0.5 percent of graduating undergraduates	
UGA Philosophy Department Richard H. Severens Scholarship	Apr 2025
Awarded to the top graduating philosophy majors in the Honors program	
Best Paper Award in Life Sciences, UGA CURO	Apr 2024
Received at the annual UGA Undergraduate Research Symposium	
Georgia Power Expanding E-Mobility Research Grant	Jan 2024
Received \$1,000 to study barriers to accessing electric vehicles in rural Georgia	
UGA CURO Undergraduate Research Grant	Aug 2023
Received \$1,000 grant to study ant cognition as part of the Sasaki Lab	

SKILLS

Conversational Spanish, live animal handling, curriculum design, public speaking, R coding, data visualization, Excel