

Mary Heather B. Jingco

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[Kingston Lab](#)

EDUCATION

- Aug. 2025 - Present** **University of Illinois Urbana Champaign (UIUC)**, Urbana Champaign, IL
PhD Student, Ecology, Evolution, & Conservation Biology
Advisor: Dr. Tigga Kingston
- Aug. 2018 - May 2022** **University of Guam (UOG)**, Mangilao, GU
Bachelor of Science in Biology, Integrative Biology Track
Summa Cum Laude, Cumulative GPA: 3.968

SKILLS

Technical: Mist Netting, Fruit Bat Station and Roost Survey, Field Work and Safety, Science Communication, Community Outreach, Photo Mark-Recapture Survey

INTERNSHIP & FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENCE

- Aug. 2028 - July 2030** **University of Illinois Equity Doctoral Fellowship (\$75,000)**
- Aug. 2025 - July 2028** **National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (\$111,000)**
- June 2025 - July 2025** **University of Illinois Summer Predoctoral Institute**, Champaign, Illinois
Summer predoctoral program with a focus on three main areas that support student success: academic, social, and cultural/environmental acclimation. Conducted a literature review on *Pteropus mariannus* in preparation for future dissertation work.
- Oct. 2023 - Present** **Global Sustainability Scholars RaMP-UP Program**, Gamboa, Panama
1-year post-baccalaureate fellowship conducting biodiversity research with Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) Scientists and a cohort of peers in the tropics.
- June 2020 - Aug. 2021.** **Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program (DDCSP)**, Seattle, Washington
2-year summer-intensive internship focused on cultivating social justice-oriented conservationists.

EMPLOYMENT

- Oct. 2024 - May 2025** **Research Associate I**, ORSP Fanihi Monitoring and Survey Project, UOG
Experienced establishing and running transects for *Pteropus mariannus* presence surveys and collected field data. Experienced hiking and navigating limestone forest habitat. Conducted weekly morning bat station surveys, as well as occasional roost surveys.
- Oct. 2023 - Sept. 2024** **Research Fellow**, Rachel Page Bat Lab, STRI
Co-led collaborative research on the impact of artificial light on the foraging behavior of *Carollia perspicillata* and spearheaded an independent study on the novel foraging strategy of *Trachops cirrhosus* when targeting silent, motionless prey. Experienced in mist-netting, roost-catching, and handling neotropical bats. Created engaging posts and outreach material as social media manager

Aug. 2022 - Sept. 2023	that have notably boosted interest and attendance at the lab's monthly community science outreach events. Research Associate I , ORSP Butterfly and Snail Project, UOG Conducted photo mark-recapture (PMR) surveys of endangered snails to assess population size throughout seasons across limestone forest habitat. Experienced in utilizing a Trimble Geo 7 GPS for data collection during PMR surveying. Assessed endangered snail populations through Program MARK and SECR on R.
Sep. 2021 - Aug. 2022	Research Assistant III , ORSP Butterfly and Snail Project, UOG Utilized Adobe Lightroom to process images and Hotspotter to match individual snails from a Mark Recapture project. Trained in surveys for endangered Guam snails and butterflies. Reviewed and compiled butterfly presence data from trail camera footage.
June 2021 - Aug. 2021	Intern , Beavers Northwest, UW DDCSP Year 2 Scholar Contributed to the creation of a Beaver Management Plan for Seattle Parks and Recreation and created an accessible nature walk guide for local communities. Surveyed wetland areas for beaver activity and identified potential beaver-human conflicts.

PRESENTATIONS

April 18, 2026	Roosting Ecology and Post-Disturbance Dynamics of <i>Pteropus mariannus</i> in the Mariana Islands Abstract acceptance and oral proposal presentation at the 2026 Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences (NRES) Research Symposium. Received a presentation award in the proposal presentation category.
Feb. 06, 2026	Understanding the Drivers of Roost Selectivity in the Endangered Mariana Fruit Bat, <i>Pteropus mariannus</i> Abstract acceptance and poster presentation at the 2026 Graduate Students in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology (GEEB) Symposium in Urbana, Illinois.
July 21, 2025	Refining Life History Parameters to Improve Population Modelling of the Endangered Mariana Fruit Bat (<i>Pteropus mariannus</i>) 15-minute research talk at the 2025 Illinois Summer Research Symposium in Champaign, Illinois. Received 1st place in the Graduate Research Talk category.
Aug. 27, 2024	From Island to Isthmus: Navigating Panama's Bat World and Beyond Invited 10-minute talk at the Global Sustainability Scholar's RaMP-UP Symposium in the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama.
June 29, 2024	Bat Predation on Sleeping Birds: A Novel Foraging Strategy for an Eavesdropping Specialist? Abstract acceptance and a 15-minute oral presentation at the Animal Behavior Society in London, Ontario.
June 19, 2024	Bat Predation on Sleeping Birds: A Novel Foraging Strategy for an Eavesdropping Specialist? Abstract acceptance and 5-minute lightning talk at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute BCI100 Symposium in Gamboa, Panama.

SERVICE

Mar. 2026 - Present	Central Illinois Bat Festival Organizer for the 2026 Central Illinois Bat Festival under the Branding and Activities Committee. Managed social media page for the festival.
Jan. 2026 - Present	UIUC Cosplay for Science Current volunteer in the UIUC Cosplay for Science group. Communicated concepts of One Health and the ecosystem services of bats as a 2026 UI-Con panelist within the context of the Delicious in Dungeon universe to the general con attendees.
Nov. 2023 - Aug. 2024	Rachel Page Bat Lab Public Outreach and Education Assisted in organizing monthly bilingual public outreach bat nights with >50 members of the public in attendance. Led mist netting events, public talks, and outreach activities for primary to post-secondary school groups, hotel tour guides, and general members of the public. Participated with the lab as a booth in the Biomuseo's Noche de Bichos event and Parque Municipal Summit's World of Pollinators event. Actively participated in and led various stations at these events, engaging with diverse demographics.
Nov. 2020 - May 2022	UOG CNAS STEM Conference <i>Committee Chairperson</i> for the first CNAS student-led virtual conference that provided an accessible platform to promote research for Guam students. Facilitated meetings between conference planning committees. Coordinated conference agenda by recruiting, scheduling, and organizing live sessions and keynote speakers. Assisted as liaison with conference platform, Whova, and provided technical support for conference attendees.
Nov. 2019 - May 2022	SACNAS, UOG Chapter <i>AY21-22 Vice President, AY20-21 Secretary.</i> Assisted in planning and executing RIOTERS (Research Integration of Teaching, Education, Resources Seminar) panels for UOG students. Maintained and updated relevant chapter documents and membership information.
Aug. 2019 - May 2022	UOG Biological Sciences Club <i>AY21-22 President, AY20-21 Public Relations Officer.</i> Facilitated all general and council meetings. Appointed Chairpersons for all committees and special task forces. Collaborated with UOG organizations for club events and activities. Created poster advertisements for club activities. Chaired and implemented monthly Quarantine Cleanups for members to participate in.

GRANTS, AWARDS, & HONORS

2026	PEEC Summer Research Award (\$1,000)
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2026	Harley J. Van Cleave Research Award (\$1,000)
2025	Graduate College Dissertation Travel Grant (\$4,807)
2025	1st Place, Graduate Research Talk, '25 Illinois Summer Research Symposium
2025 - Present	Equity Doctoral Fellowship, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (\$75,000)
2025 - Present	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (\$111,000)
2023	Global Sustainability Scholars, RaMP-UP Fellowship Program
Fall 2018 - Fall 2022	University of Guam President's List for Academic Excellence
Fall 2019, Spring 2021	University of Guam Dean's List for Academic Excellence

REFERENCES

Tigga Kingston, PhD

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