

**CONTACT
INFORMATION**

Mailing Address
135 Skok Hall
2003 Upper Buford Circle
St. Paul, MN 55108

Email: ford0411@umn.edu
kassthefish@gmail.com
Phone: 612-624-6292
Web: www.kassandraford.com

**CURRENT
POSITION**

Assistant Professor
Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology
University of Minnesota- Twin Cities
Curator of Ichthyology & Mollusks
Bell Museum of Natural History
August 2023 – present

**PREVIOUS
ACADEMIC
POSITIONS**

National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Department of Biology, George Washington University, USA
June 2022—July 2023
Investigative Collaborator: Dr. Patricia L Hernandez

Early Postdoctoral Researcher
Institute of Ecology & Evolution, University of Bern, Switzerland
Fish Ecology & Evolution, Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science (EAWAG)
August 2021 – May 2022
Principal Investigator: Dr. Ole Seehausen

EDUCATION

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Ph.D.
University of Louisiana at Lafayette
August 2016 – August 2021
Dissertation Title: Mosaic Evolution of Craniofacial Morphologies in Apterontid and Mormyrid Weakly Electric Fishes
Major Advisor: Dr. James Albert

Genetics, B.Sc.
University of Wisconsin-Madison
September 2011-May 2015

**RESEARCH
FUNDING &
FELLOWSHIPS**

TOTAL FUNDING SECURED TO DATE: \$300,000

2021	Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Biology June 2022—May 2024, National Science Foundation, \$138,000
2020	University Doctoral Fellowship Aug 2020 – May 2021, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, \$20,000
2019	AAA + ICVM Excellence in Research Travel Award 21 July 2019, International Congress on Vertebrate Morphology, \$2,000
2016	BOR-SREB Doctoral Fellowship Aug 2016 – Aug 2020, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, \$100,000
2011	Mercile J. Lee Scholars Program Sept 2011 – May 2015, University of Wisconsin-Madison, \$40,000

AWARDS &
DISTINCTIONS

- 2023 **BioOne Ambassador Award Nomination**
February 2023, *Ichthyology & Herpetology Journal*
- 2021 **Graduate School Research Paper Competition (2nd Place)**
9 April 2021, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
- 2019 **Graduate Student Symposium Biology Talk (2nd Place)**
22 Nov 2019, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
- 2018 **Three-Minute Thesis Competition Winner (University-level)**
9 Nov 2018, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

ACCEPTED
PEER-REVIEWED
PUBLICATIONS

Nachman M, ... **Ford KL**, et al. (*in press*). Specimen collection is essential for modern science. *PLOS Biology*.

Haberthür D, Law M, **Ford KL**, Häsler M, Seehausen O, Hlushchuk R. (2023). Microtomographic investigation of a large corpus of cichlids. *PLOS ONE*.

Ford KL, Albert JS, Summers AP, Hedrick BP, Schachner ER, Jones AS, Evans K, Chakrabarty P. (2023). *Review: A New Era of Morphological Investigations: Reviewing methods for comparative anatomical studies. Integrative Organismal Biology*.

Ford KL, Peterson R, Bernt MJ, Albert JS. (2022). Convergence is skin deep: Craniofacial evolution in electric fishes from South America and Africa (Apteronotidae and Mormyridae). *Integrative Organismal Biology*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/iob/obac022>.

Ford KL, Bernt MJ, Summers AP, Albert JS. (2022). Mosaic Evolution of Craniofacial Morphologies in Ghost Electric Fishes (Gymnotiformes: Apteronotidae). *Ichthyology & Herpetology*, 110(2), 315-326. <https://doi.org/10.1643/i2021016>.

Ford KL, Albert JS. (2022). Is the medium the message? Functional diversity across abiotic gradients in freshwater electric fishes. *Integrative and Comparative Biology*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/icb/icac010>

Pezold F, **Ford KL**, Schmidt RC. (2020). *Epiplatys cashneri*, A New Species of Killifish (Cyprinodontiformes: Nothobranchiidae) from Liberia, West Africa. *Aqua*, 26(3-42),77-86.

Evans KM, Bernt MJ, Kolmann MA, **Ford KL**, Albert JS. (2018). Why the long face? Static allometry in the sexually dimorphic phenotypes of Neotropical electric fishes. *Zoological Journal of the Linnaean Society*. 186(3),633-649.

MANUSCRIPTS IN
PREP

Ford KL, Peterson R, Evans K, Sullivan J, Summers AP, Albert JS. (*Invited to Resubmit*). Convergent and divergent evolution of craniofacial morphologies in a continental radiation of African electric fishes (Mormyridae). *Evolution*.

Ford KL, Peterson R, Summers AP, Albert JS. (*In Preparation*). Craniofacial diversity in African electric fishes (Mormyridae).

INVITED
CONFERENCE
SYMPOSIA

K.L. Ford, Albert JS. (5 January 2022). Is the Medium the Message? Abiotic gradients and biodiversity in freshwater electric fishes. *Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology*. Invited Symposium.

K.L. Ford, Bernt MJ, Peterson R, Albert JS. (25 July 2021). Why so many electric fishes? Mosaic evolution of craniofacial morphologies in Apterontidae (Gymnotiformes) and Mormyridae (Osteoglossiformes). *Joint Meeting of Ichthyology and Herpetology*. Invited Symposium (virtual).

*INVITED
UNIVERSITY
SEMINARS*

K.L. Ford, Peterson R, Bernt MJ, Albert JS. (9 February 2022). Craniofacial evolution in freshwater fishes: convergence, divergence, or mosaicism? *PEEC Spring Seminar Series*. University of Illinois- Urbana-Champaign; Invited Seminar (virtual).

K.L. Ford, Peterson R, Bernt MJ, Albert JS. (3 December 2021). Craniofacial evolution in freshwater fishes: convergence, divergence, or mosaicism? *Fall Seminar Series*. State University of New York: Geneseo; Invited Seminar (virtual).

K.L. Ford, Peterson R, Bernt MJ, Albert JS. (16 November 2021). Craniofacial evolution in freshwater fishes: convergence, divergence, or mosaicism? *Fall Seminar Series*. University of Reading; Invited Seminar (virtual).

K.L. Ford, Peterson R, Bernt MJ, Albert JS. (9 December 2020). Evolution of craniofacial morphologies in apteronotid and mormyrid electric fishes. *Fall Seminar Series*. Friday Harbor Labs. University of Washington (virtual).

K.L. Ford, Peterson R, Bernt MJ, Albert JS. (21 October 2020). Evolution of craniofacial morphologies in apteronotid and mormyrid electric fishes. *Seminar in Aquatic Ecology and Macroevolution*. EAWAG Center for Ecology, Evolution & Biogeochemistry. University of Bern, Switzerland (virtual).

*CONTRIBUTED
PRESENTATIONS*

K.L. Ford, Singh P, Law M, Haberthur D, Hlushchuk R, Evans K, Seehausen O. (6 January 2023). Analysis of Craniofacial Evolution in Lake Victoria Cichlids. *Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology*. Austin, TX.

K.L. Ford, Singh P, Law M, Haberthur D, Hlushchuk R, Evans K, Seehausen O. (31 July 2022). Analysis of Craniofacial Evolution in Lake Victoria Cichlids. *Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists*. Spokane, WA.

K.L. Ford, Peterson R, Bernt MJ, Albert JS. (2 January 2021). It's Complicated: Analysis of convergent evolution of craniofacial morphologies in apteronotid and mormyrid electric fishes. *Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology* (virtual).

K.L. Ford, Peterson R, Albert JS. (6 January 2020). Evolution of craniofacial morphologies in apteronotid and mormyrid electric fishes. *Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology*. Austin, TX.

K.L. Ford, Peterson R, Albert JS. (22 November 2019). Evolution of craniofacial morphologies in apteronotid and mormyrid electric fishes. *University of Louisiana at Lafayette Graduate Student Symposium*. Lafayette, LA.

K.L. Ford, Donatelli C, Gibb A, Albert JS, Summers AP. (22 July 2019). Scaling with scales: Analysis of dermal armor of the Bay Pipefish (*Syngnathus leptorhynchus*). *International Congress on Vertebrate Morphology*. Prague, Czech Republic.

K.L. Ford. (16 February 2019). Functional Morphology of Electric Fishes. *Conference of Southern Graduate Schools: Regional 3-Minute Thesis Competition*. Knoxville, TN

K.L. Ford, Donatelli C, Gibb A, Albert JS, Summers AP. (4 January 2019). Scaling with scales: Analysis of dermal armor of the Bay Pipefish (*Syngnathus leptorhynchus*). *Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology*. Tampa, FL.

K.L. Ford (8 November 2018). Functional Morphology of Electric Fishes. *University of Louisiana at Lafayette 3MT Competition*. Lafayette, LA.

K.L. Ford, Donatelli C, Gibb A, Albert JS, Summers AP. (12 October 2018). Scaling with scales: Analysis of dermal armor of the Bay Pipefish (*Syngnathus leptorhynchus*). *University of Louisiana at Lafayette Graduate Student Symposium*. Lafayette, LA.

K.L. Ford, Albert JS. (15 July 2017). The long and short of it: Patterns of snout differentiation in four species of mormyrid electric fishes. *Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists*. Austin, TX.

K.L. Ford, Albert JS. (9 January 2017). Quantitative analysis of pigmentation variation in the Amazonian electric fish *Steatogenys elegans* (Gymnotiformes: Rhamphichthyidae). *Society for Systematic Biology*. Baton Rouge, LA.

Pezold F, **K.L. Ford,** Schmidt RC. (5 January 2017). A new species of Killifish (Cyprinodontiformes: Nothobranchiidae) from Liberia, West Africa. *Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology*. New Orleans, LA.

K.L. Ford, Diallo S, Pezold F. (10 July 2016). A new online reference to the freshwater and estuarine fishes of Guinea, West Africa. *Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists*. New Orleans, LA.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

K.L. Ford, Summers AP, Albert JS. (5 January 2018). The long and short of it: Patterns of snout differentiation in two species of electric fishes. *Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology*. San Francisco, CA.

K.L. Ford, Evans K, Albert JS. (11 November 2016). Quantitative analysis of shape and pigmentation variation in the Amazonian electric fish *Steatogenys elegans* (Gymnotiformes: Rhamphichthyidae). *University of Louisiana at Lafayette Graduate Student Symposium*. Lafayette, LA.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2023 *Instructor of Record, Ichthyology*
Aug 2023 – present, FWCB Department, UMN
- 2019 *Volunteer Teaching Assistant, Ichthyology*
Aug 2019 – Dec 2019, Biology Department, UL-Lafayette
- 2019 *Volunteer Teaching Assistant, Principles of Ecology*
Jan 2019 – May 2019, Biology Department, UL-Lafayette
- 2019 *Level 1 Teaching Assistant Certification through PULSE Action Plan*
Feb 2019, Biology Department, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

**ADDITIONAL
COURSEWORK**

- 2023 PADI SCUBA diving certification course**
February-March 2023 (ongoing), Blue Planet Scuba
- 2019 3D Slicer Workshop**
August 2019, Friday Harbor Labs, University of Washington
[Drs. Adam Summers, Murat Maga]
- 2018 Fish Biomechanics**
July 2018 – August 2018, Friday Harbor Labs, University of Washington
[Drs. Adam Summers, Alice Gibb]
- 2018 Introduction to geometric morphometrics using R**
February 2018, PR Statistics
[Drs. Dean Adams, Michael Collyer, Antogoni Kaliontzopoulou]

**PEER REVIEW
SERVICE TO
JOURNALS**

Neotropical Ichthyology
Integrative & Comparative Biology
Ichthyology & Herpetology
Biology Letters

**PROFESSIONAL
MEMBERSHIP**

American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH)
Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB)
Society for the Study of Evolution (SSE)
Minorities in Shark Sciences (MISS) *Friend of MISS*

SERVICE

- 2023 Collector's Day**
Nov 2023, Bell Museum of Natural History
- Midwest CASC Adaptive Capacity of Inland Fishes Workshop**
Nov 2023, Madison, WI
- Minorities in Shark Sciences**
Strategic Planning Committee Member (Friend of MISS member)
- Harlan Lab Tour Volunteer**
Feb 2023, George Washington University
- Guest Speaker in Evolution Course**
Jan 2023, St. Ambrose University, coordinated by Dr. Neil Aschliman
- 2022 NSF PFRB Workshop Panelist**
October 2022, organized by Dr. Kevin Quinteros
- Decolonizing Science Symposium & Workshop Host**
August 2022, INTECOL 2022
- ASIH Resolutions Committee Member at JMIH 2022**
July 2022, Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists & Herpetologists
- ASIH DEIB Workshop Attendee**
July 2022, Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists & Herpetologists
- DEI Training Attendee**
January 2022, EAWAG Research Institute, Switzerland
- 2022-present ASIH Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging Committee Member**
January 2022—present
- 2021-present ASIH Web Content and Management Committee Member**
January 2021—present
- 2019-2020 UL-Lafayette Graduate Student Symposium Committee President**
August 2019 – May 2020

2017-2019 **UL-Lafayette Graduate Student Symposium Committee Member**

August 2017 – May 2019

2017-2018 **UL-Lafayette Graduate Council Appointee**

August 2017 – May 2018, Dean of the Graduate School appointee

*MENTORING &
ADVISING*

Incoming Graduate Students to Convergence Lab

Richard “RC” Hoover, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities, Jan 2024

Graduate Students (Ongoing Mentorship)

Faith Kelly, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities, Aug 2023 – present

Kelsie Pos, George Washington University, June 2022 – present

Allyson Evans, George Washington University, June 2022 – present

Maddie Byrne, George Washington University, June 2022 – present

Ayomikun Akinrinade, University of California – Irvine, Jan 2022 – present

Alize Hardin, University of South Florida, May 2020 – present

Undergraduate Students (Fish Identification Collective)

Cristian Hernandez, University of Minnesota, Sept 2023 – present

Jonathan Wilson-Thieroff, University of Minnesota, Sept 2023 – present

Ethan Haefner, University of Minnesota, Sept 2023 – present

Owen Stephenson, University of Minnesota, Sept 2023 – present

Aidan Tonidandel, University of Minnesota, Sept 2023 – present

Brian Whelan, University of Minnesota, Sept 2023 – present