

## Sarah Marie Stasel

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### EDUCATION

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2022 – present	<b>PhD candidate</b> , Department of Biology, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY. <b>Advisor &amp; Mentor:</b> Dr. Vincent M. Cassone <b>Co-mentor:</b> Dr. Carrie L. Shaffer
2023 – 2024	<b>Graduate Certificate in College Teaching and Learning</b> , Graduate School, U. of Kentucky, Lexington, KY.
2020 – 2021	<b>Bachelor of Science in Biology</b> , Department of Biology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY.
2017 – 2018	<b>Associate of Science</b> , Elizabethtown Community & Technical College, Elizabethtown, KY.

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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Fall 2022 – present	<b>Research Assistant, U. of Kentucky, Lexington, KY</b> Teaching good laboratory practice, basic microbiology, molecular biology, and chronobiology to undergraduate researchers (BIO 199, BIO 394, and BIO 395).
Fall 2022 – Fall 2024	<b>Graduate Teaching Assistant, U. of Kentucky, Lexington, KY</b> Taught BIO155 (Biological Research Skills Lab; 2 sections Fall 2022), BIO209 (Intro Microbiology Lab; 2 sections Spring 2023), and BIO309 (Microbiology Lab; 2 sections Fall 2023, 2 sections Spring 2024, & 2 sections Fall 2024).
2021	<b>Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, WKU, Bowling Green, KY</b> Taught BIO114 (General Biology Lab for Non-Majors; 3 sections between Spring-Fall 2021) and assisted teaching BIO212 (Genome Discovery and Exploration Program; 2 sections Fall 2021).

### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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2022 – present	<b>Research Assistant, U. of Kentucky, Lexington, KY.</b> Investigating the circadian clock and melatonin sensor mechanism in a human gut commensal <i>Klebsiella aerogenes</i> .
2020 – 2021	<b>Undergraduate Researcher, Science Education Alliance (SEA), Western Kentucky University, sponsored by HHMI, Bowling Green, KY.</b> Isolated novel <i>Mycobacterium</i> phage Munford and annotated <i>Mycobacterium</i> phage PeaceMeal1 through the SEA PHAGES program. Assisted in the creation of a gene library of <i>Mycobacterium</i> phage MooMoo and characterized phenotype of 5 out of 97 genes in its genome through the SEA GENES program.
Summer 2021	<b>Undergraduate Summer Research Intern: KY INBRE @ University of Louisville, Louisville, KY.</b> Analyzed samples by UHPLC-MS and GC-MS, assisted in the development of a microdevice method to analyze carbonyl compounds from exhaled breath.

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Data Published Online

Porter, L., Allen, J.M., **Stasel, S.M.**, Meece, K.Y., Pike, N.R., Gaffney, B.L., Staples, A.K., King, R.A., Rinehart, C.A., Garlena, R.A., Russell, D.A., Jacobs-Sera, D., and Hatfull, G.F. 2021 Mycobacterium Phage PeaceMeall, complete genome. [GenBank: MZ355723.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genbank/MZ355723.1)

**Stasel, S.M.**, Rowland, N.S., King, R.A. 2020. Novel Mycobacterium Phage Munford. [PhagesDB.org](https://phagesdb.org/)

## ORAL & POSTER PRESENTATIONS

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\* indicates presenters ; # indicates mentored undergraduate students

1. **Stasel, S.M.\***, Shaffer, C.L., Cassone, V.M. 2025. Transcriptome Analysis of *Klebsiella aerogenes* Circadian Clock. Rhythms in the Southeast Region, Vanderbilt University. Invited talk. May 17, 2025.
2. McDougal, L.G.\*#, **Stasel, S.M.**, Cassone, V.M. 2025. Examining *Salmonella enterica* Typhimurium Gene Expression for Properties of a Circadian Clock. Showcase of Undergraduate Scholars, U. of Kentucky. Poster presentation. April 30, 2025.
3. Monsalve-Lunari, P.C.\*#, **Stasel, S.M.**, Cassone, V.M. 2025. Investigating the Indole Sensitivity of the Enteric Pathogen *Salmonella enterica* Typhimurium. Showcase of Undergraduate Scholars, U. of Kentucky. Poster presentation. April 30, 2025.
4. **Stasel, S.M.\*** 2025. Clocked Communities: Melatonin and Circadian Regulation of *Klebsiella aerogenes* Biofilms. Department of Biology, U. of Kentucky, Lexington, KY. Invited talk. April 15, 2025.
5. **Stasel, S.M.\***, Walldridge, O.M., Shaffer, C.L., Cassone, V.M. 2024. Melatonin regulates type 1 pilus-dependent biofilm production in diverse uropathogens. Circadian and Sleep Health for a Healthy Kentucky (CASH-KY) Research Day, U. of Kentucky, Lexington, KY. Poster presentation. August 15, 2024.
6. Grayson, A.D.\*#, **Stasel, S.M.**, Cassone, V.M. 2024. Investigation of the Rhythmic Output of an Enteric Pathogen. KY-INBRE/SURES/Markey Strong Joint Program Poster Session, U. of Kentucky, Lexington, KY. Poster presentation. July 25, 2024.
7. **Stasel, S.M.\***, Walldridge, O.M., Prisinzano, T.E., Cassone, V.M., Shaffer, C.L. 2024. Exogenous Melatonin Regulates *Klebsiella aerogenes* Type 1 Pilus-Dependent Biofilm Formation. Society for Research on Biological Rhythms, San Juan, Puerto Rico. Invited talk. May 19, 2024.
8. McDougal, L.G.\*#, Monsalve-Lunari, P.C.\*#, **Stasel, S.M.**, Walldridge, O.M., Cassone, V.M. 2024. Search for Circadian Rhythms of Gene Expression in the Family *Enterobacteriaceae*. Showcase of Undergraduate Scholars, U. of Kentucky. Poster presentation. April 24, 2024.
9. Utley, A.\*#, **Stasel, S.M.**, Walldridge, O.M., Cassone, V.M. 2023. Effects of gut bacteria on the circadian output of *Klebsiella aerogenes*. SC INBRE/Southeast Regional IDeA Conference 2023. Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center (CMCC). Poster presentation. September 16, 2023.
10. **Stasel, S.M.\***, Walldridge, O.M., Shaffer, C.L., Cassone, V.M. 2023. Melatonin Regulates Type 1 Pilus-dependent Biofilm Production in Diverse Uropathogens. Rhythms in the Southeast Region, Virginia Tech. Invited talk. May 19, 2023.
11. **Stasel, S.M.**, Walldridge, O.M.\*#, Shaffer, C.L., Cassone, V.M. 2023. Melatonin regulates type 1 pilus-dependent biofilm production in diverse uropathogens. Rhythms in the Southeast Region, Virginia Tech. Poster presentation. May 19, 2023.
12. Hart, O.\*#, Johnson, S.\*#, Morgan, J.\*#, Morton, H.\*#, Mowafi, O.\*#, Puskas, L.\*#, Saylor, E.\*#, Shoults, M.\*#, Siler, C.\*#, Taul, A.\*#, Vittitoe, N.\*#, Vyas, B.\*#, Krout, R., **Stasel, S.M.**, Walldridge, O.M., Cassone, V.M. 2023. Where does all my Tylenol™ keep going: The E. coli Case Study. Showcase of Undergraduate Scholars, U. of Kentucky. Poster presentation. April 26, 2023.

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13. **Stasel, S.M.\***, Xie, Z., Morris, J.D., Fu, X. 2021. Development of a New Analytical Method for Analyzing Carbonyls in Exhaled Breath. Annual Kentucky Academy of Science Meeting, Virtual poster presentation. Nov. 6, 2021.
  14. Lusk, C.E.\*, Norman, B.N., Flick, C.D.\*, Sweeney, E.R., Salifu, S.N., Romero, H.G., Murphy, C.B., Xu, H.M., Schall, G.W., Tillett, C.T., Upchurch, C.P., Kamaludeen, A.D., Hoey, N.J., Delks, R.L., Godby, H.P., Smith, A.B., Meece, K.Y., Allen, J.M., **Stasel, S.M.\***, Pike, N.R., Porter, L., Moore, C., Stewart, J., Rowland, N.S., King, R.A., Rinehart, C.A. 2021. Five Mycobacterium Phages: Sunshine924 (A1), PetiteSangsue (A4), Sparxx (A4), Cookiedough (A6), PeaceMeal1 (A10). HHMI 2021 SEA Symposium, Virtual poster presentation. April 9-11, 2021.

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## TRAININGS & CAREER DEVELOPMENT

- “Hands-on Confocal Fluorescence Microscopy”, UKY A&S Imaging Center Workshop. July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Presented by Dr. Doug Harrison.
- “Trainee Day”, Society for Research on Biological Rhythms Biennial Meeting Workshop. May 18th, 2024.
- “Transferable Skills for TAs”, UKY, CELT & GPSE Workshop, U. of Kentucky, Mar. 22, 2024. Presented by Dr. Ashley Sorrell.
- “Getting Started with Teaching Philosophy and Diversity Statements”, UKY, CELT & GPSE Workshop, U. of Kentucky, Feb. 15, 2024. Presented by Dr. Ashley Sorrell.
- “I’m Supposed to Teach What?’: Strategies for Teaching Content Outside of Your Expertise”, UKY, CELT & GSPE Workshop, U. of Kentucky, Jan. 26, 2024. Presented by Dr. Ashley Sorrell.
- “KY INBRE Wet-Lab Genomics Summer Workshop”, UofL, KY INBRE GTEC Workshop, U. of Louisville, May 22-26, 2023.
- “Setting Up an Inclusive Classroom”, UKY, CELT Workshop, U. of Kentucky, Jan. 19, 2023. Presented by Drs. Jill Abney & Shauna Morgan.
- “2022 KY INBRE Electron Microscopy Summer Workshop”, UKY, KY INBRE EM Workshop, U. of Kentucky. Aug. 4, 2022.
- “The Essentials of Next Generation Sequencing Workshop”, UKY, KY-INBRE NGS Workshop, Virtual. Aug. 2-6, 2021.

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## AWARDS

- 2025, A&S Outstanding Teaching Assistant of 2025 Award, University of Kentucky (\$500).
- 2025, Biology Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, University of Kentucky.
- 2025, Ribble Travel Funding, awarded to UKY Biology Students for conference travel support (\$520)
- Spring 2025, Biology Merit Fellowship, awarded to UKY Biology PhD Students in Years 1 and 2, (\$14,700).
- 2024, Ribble Travel Funding, awarded to UKY Biology Students for conference travel support (\$1000).
- 2023, Ribble Travel Funding, awarded to UKY Biology Students for conference travel support (\$190).
- 2022, Gertrude Flora Ribble Graduate Research Fellowship (2022-2023), awarded to graduate students with outstanding academic record with preference to Kentucky residents (\$2000).
- 2021, Colonel Oscar Payne Cleaver Scholarship Fund recipient, awarded to students with an outstanding academic record with preference given to residents of Hart Co. (\$1,300).
- 2020, WKU Department of Biology Scholarship recipient, awarded to students with a satisfactory departmental GPA (\$500).
- 2020, Martha T. Wolfe Biology Award recipient, awarded to one student that has displayed remarkable work in ECTC’s Biology Department.

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

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- 2025-2026, President, UKY Biology Graduate Student Association (BGSA).
- 2024-2025, UKY BioBonanza Graphic Designer.
- 2024-2025, Graduate Mentor, UKY S-STEM Scholars Program.
- 2024-2025, Vice President, UKY BGSA.
- Fall 2023 & Fall 2024, UKY BGSA Peer Mentor.
- 2023-2024, Social & Events Chair, UKY BGSA.
- 2023, Microteach Group Leader, UKY Graduate School. Orienting new TAs for their instructional roles.
- Aug 2021-May 2022, Biology Tutor for *Beta Beta Beta* (Tri-Beta) Honor's Biology Society

## OUTREACH

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- 2025, March 15<sup>th</sup>, panelist for Annual Celebration of Women in STEM held by the Yahng Discovery Center at Berea College.
- 2025, February 1<sup>st</sup>, poster judge for KY INBRE Annual Research Conference (ARC25).
- 2023, October 27<sup>th</sup>, volunteer for UKY BGSA Spooky Science outreach event.
- 2021, volunteered for WKU's Microbiology Club Fundraiser. Assisted in selling flasks of dinoflagellates and cloth masks to raise money for the Microbiology Club.
- 2021, volunteered at Richardsville Elementary School's Science Night. Assisted teachers in encouraging students to participate in age-appropriate science experiments/activities.

## MEMBERSHIP

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- 2025 – present, American Society of Microbiology Member.
- 2024 – present, Circadian and Sleep Health for a Healthy Kentucky (CASH-KY) Member.
- 2024 – present, Society for Research on Biological Rhythms Member.
- 2021 – present, *Beta Beta Beta* (Tri-Beta) Honor's Society Member, members selected must be full-time students pursuing a bachelor's degree in the Biological Sciences with a cumulative GPA >3.2.
- 2018 – present, *Phi Theta Kappa* Honor's Society Member, members selected must be full-time students pursuing either an associate or bachelor's degree with a cumulative GPA >3.5.

## STUDENTS MENTORED

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**Paula C. Monsalve-Lunari** Bio394 Independent Work in Neuroscience, undergraduate student, *U. of Kentucky* (Spring 2024 – Spring 2025), starting as a PhD student at the U. of Kentucky in Fall 2025.

**L. Grace McDougal** Bio394 Independent Work in Neuroscience, undergraduate student, *U. of Kentucky* (Spring 2023 – Spring 2025), starting as a MD student at the U. of Kentucky in Fall 2025.

**Abbey Howard** Bio397 Research in Microbiology, undergraduate student, *U. of Kentucky* (Fall 2024)

**Aleah D. Grayson** KY INBRE SUR 2024 Student, undergraduate student, *University of Pikeville* (Summer 2024), starting as a DO student at the University of Pikeville in Fall 2025.

**Shelby L. Burgess** Bio395 Mentored Research, undergraduate student, *U. of Kentucky* (Fall 2023), starting as a DO student at the Lincoln Memorial University in Fall 2025.

**Faris S. Allahham** Bio398 Research and Writing in Biology, undergraduate student, *U. of Kentucky* (Spring 2023 - Fall 2023), currently a MD student at the University of Louisville.

**Delaney G. Rager** Summer Student, undergraduate student, *Loyola University Chicago* (Summer 2023)

**Anzlee S. Utley** KY INBRE SUR 2023 Student, undergraduate student, *Western Kentucky University* (Summer 2023)

