

PERMANENT ADDRESS: HC 02 BOX 2245 • BOQUERON PR, 00622
CURRENT ADDRESS: 805 W GREEN ST URBANA, IL 61801
E-MAIL RIOS.LORENA30@GMAIL.COM

LORENA RIOS ACOSTA

VITAL

STATUS: U.S. Citizen.

MARITAL: Single

LANGUAGES: Spanish (native), English (fluently spoken, read, & written)

DATE OF BIRTH: 30th Nov 1989

EDUCATION

Aug 2012-present	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	Urbana, IL
PhD in Plant Biology		NSF IGERT & NSF GRFP Fellow
	Genetic assessment of Maize reproductive structures responses to ozone	
2007-2012	University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez	Mayagüez, PR
B.S. in Industrial Biotechnology		Magna Cum Laude

FELLOWSHIPS

April 2013 – Present	NSF GRFP fellow
Aug 2012-Present	NSF-IGERT fellow
Summer 2011	IBS SROP fellow
Summer 2010	GCEP DOE fellow
Fall 2009-Spring 2011	BioMINDS Research Fellow

AWARDS

Fall 2011	ABRCMS (Awarded Outstanding Poster Presentation)
Fall 2011	ABRCMS Student Travel Awardee
Fall 2011	Biosciences Opportunities Preview Program at UW-Madison Participant
Spring 2011	1st Biology Symposium–UPRM (Awarded Outstanding Oral Presentation)
2011	Honor Student, UPR - Mayagüez Campus
2010	Honor Student, UPR - Mayagüez Campus
2009	Honor Student, UPR - Mayagüez Campus
2008	Honor Student, UPR - Mayagüez Campus

PRESENTATIONS

January 10-15, 2014	Plant & Animal Genome XXII (Author- Poster presentation)
October 3, 2013	Plant biology Fall Symposium
Spring 2012	2nd Biology Symposium – UPRM (Oral Presentation)
Spring 2012	32th Puerto Rico Interdisciplinary Scientific Meeting (PRISM)
Spring 2012	1st ABTech 2012 (Poster Presentation)
Summer 2011	IBS SROP Final Symposium - UW, Madison (Oral Presentation)
Summer 2011	IBS SROP Proposal Poster Session - UW, Madison (Poster Presentation)

Spring 2011	SACNAS UPRM Chapter (Oral Presentation)
Spring 2011	31th Puerto Rico Interdisciplinary Scientific Meeting (PRISM)
Summer 2010	GCEP SURE Final Symposium (Oral Presentation)
Spring 2010	XV SIGMA Xi Poster Day (Poster Presentation)

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2010- Present	Plant Biotechnology Laboratory	Mayagüez, PR
	Analysis of Genetic Diversity in Different Sweetpotato Varieties.	
Summer 2011	Integrated Biological Sciences- SRP	Madison, Wisconsin, US
	Rescuing the Wild Type Phenotype of Increased Digestibility Mutants in <i>A. thaliana</i>	
Summer 2010	Institute for Genomic Biology- UIUC	Illinois, US
	Measure soybean agroecosystem responses to future heatwaves.	
2009- 2010	Micropropagation Research Laboratory	Mayagüez, PR
	Optimization of the induction of somatic embryogenesis in sugarcane identified for biofuel production.	
2008	Theoretical Chemistry Laboratory	Mayagüez, PR
	Theoretical optimization of a chemical molecule to be use in a drug delivery system.	

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

April 4, 2014	Science Night	Urbana IL
	Bilingual volunteer at “How seed disperse?” at Urbana Middle School, Leal school, Urbana. Kids were guides thru a display of seed with different dispersion methods afterward I help design a pretend seed following the favorite dispersion method.	
Feb 3, 2014	Cena y ciencia	Urbana, IL
	Volunteer at the event “Cena y ciencia” (Dinner and science) where the idea is to develop science lesson completely in Spanish. This aims to incorporate minority groups into science topics.	
Jan 18, 2014	DNA mystery	Urbana, IL
	Guided the kids thru a simple DNA extraction protocol and helped them solved a mystery during the “DNA mystery” module at the Urbana Free Library.	
Nov 18, 2013	Science Night	Danville, IL
	Volunteer at “How seed disperse?” at South View Middle School, Danville. Kids were guides thru a display of seed with different dispersion methods afterward I help design a pretend seed following the favorite dispersion method.	
Nov 1, 2013	Genome day	Urbana, IL
	Lead the “Dancing with Plants” exhibition at the Orpheum Museum. Responsibilities included preparing the equipment, coordinating voluntaries, and guiding	

PHENODays: Imaging & Robotics for 21st Century Science Donald Danforth Plant Science Center Fall Symposium

Nov 19, 2013 Illumina ag seminar Champaign, IL

Advances in genome science Illumina seminar

July 2013 C4 & CAM conference Champaign, IL

C4 and CAM Plant Biology Symposium 2013

March 2013 STRI fellows symposium Panama City, Panamá

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute fellows symposium 2013

FOCUS GROUPS

Nov. 14, 2013 Campus Conversation on Undergraduate Education Urbana, IL

Oct 25, 2013 IGB External Advisory Board Urbana, IL

Oct 3, 2013 Council of Graduate School Urbana, IL

Council of Graduate Schools : Discussion of representation of minority groups in iSTEM