Chauncey R. Gadek

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Education

2025 **PhD,** Biology,
Department of Biology, University of New Mexico
Advisor: Dr. Christopher Witt

2019 **M.S.** Biology with *Distinction*,
Department of Biology, University of New Mexico
Advisor: Dr. Christopher Witt

2016 **B.S.,** Biology (Highest Honors, *summa cum laude*; minor in Chemistry)
Department of Biology, University of New Mexico

Professional Appointments

2025–Present Biology Faculty, Minnesota North College (MNC)

2021–2025 Environmental Professional-Biologist, Environmental Stewardship, Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)

2016–2021 Graduate Teaching, Research, and Curatorial Assistant, University of New Mexico (UNM) and Museum of Southwestern Biology (MSB)

Teaching Experience

Biology Faculty

Minnesota North College, 2025–present

Courses taught:

- Introduction to Biology and lab
- Human Biology and lab
- Organismal Biology and lab (focus on evolution and ecology of organisms)
- Environmental Science
- Forest Ecology and lab (focus on hands-on field research projects)

Responsibilities:

- Design and teach lecture and laboratory courses for biology majors, non-majors, and dual enrollment high school students
- Deliver courses in in-person and asynchronous online formats using D2L
- Maintain a full teaching load of 15+ contact hours per semester
- Develop engaging and rigorous course materials, assessments, and activities
- Design and implement novel laboratory and field activities, including setup, safety oversight, and equipment management
- Provide student support through office hours, advising, and regular feedback

- Participate in curriculum development, faculty committees, and student engagement activities

Graduate Teaching Assistant
University of New Mexico, 2016–2021

Courses:
- Introductory Biology (2 undergraduate sections, 1 high school section)
- Ornithology
- Evolution of Animal Sexual Systems
- Evolution of Human Sexuality

Responsibilities:
- Designed and taught laboratory sections
- Managed laboratory preparation and safety procedures
- Developed and presented regular lab and periodic guest lectures
- Planned and led student field trips
- Hosted regular student study sessions and office hours

Service and Student Engagement

2025–2026 Faculty Advisor, Sustainability Club, MNC
Organized campus cleanup events, clothing and food drives, and environmental initiatives

2025–2026 Committee Service, MNC
Contributed to pre-professional health pathway development, online course initiatives, and institutional discussions on AI in coursework

2023–2024 Feral Cattle Working Group, LANL

2023 Postbaccalaureate Hiring Committee, LANL

2022 Undergraduate Intern Hiring Committee, LANL

2022–2024 IACUC secretary/committee member, LANL

2022 NEPA hiring committee, LANL

2021 Ecologist Hiring Committee, LANL

2020–2021 Graduate Student Association Research Allocations Committee Chair, Biology Graduate Student Association, UNM

2018–2019 Space Committee Chair, Biology Graduate Student Association, UNM

Advising and Mentoring

2026 Maryuri Reyes, graduate, Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina, Peru

2026 Luz Amezquita, graduate, Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina, Peru

2025-2026 Jace Christie, undergraduate, MNC

2025-2026 Sofie Newman, undergraduate, MNC

2023–2024 Noelle Mason, postbaccalaureate student, LANL

2022 Zavier Avery, undergraduate, LANL

2021–2023 Makenzie Quintana, undergraduate, LANL

2021–2022 Jadzia Rodriguez, postbaccalaureate student, LANL

2019–2021 Trinity Casaus, undergraduate, UNM

2019–2020 Nora Steinberg, undergraduate, UNM

2019-2020 Elijah Martinez, undergraduate, UNM

2019 Alfredo Garcia, undergraduate, UNM

2018 Danica Simmons, undergraduate, UNM

2017 Lucero Horna, Universidad de Piura, Piura, Peru

2016 Malé Castro, Universidad Central de Venezuela, Caracas, Venezuela

2016 Wade Garner, Del Norte High School, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Outreach

2025 Lobo Science Mentor, Jefferson Middle School,

2024 Wildlife safety presentation, LANL

2023 Night at Museum, Evolution Conference, Albuquerque NM

2023 Wildlife safety presentation, LANL

2022 Ecological data analysis in R workshops, LANL

2022 Outreach presentation on wildlife corridors, LANL

2022 Presentation on migratory birds and conservation, Los Alamos Middle School

2022 Presentation on jobs in the biological sciences, Los Alamos High School

2020 Museum of Southwestern Biology Open House and Research Showcase

2015 Museum of Southwestern Biology Open House

Field and Research Experience

- Conducted threatened and endangered species surveys for Mexican Spotted Owl and Jemez Mountains salamander (LANL)
- Participated in migratory bird monitoring and banding programs including MAPS (LANL, UNM)
- Conducted field research (five trips) on avian physiology, ecology, and evolution in Peru and Chile (UNM)
- Prepared over 600 avian specimens for the MSB (UNM) and University of Wyoming
- Managed sandhill crane research collaboration with New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (UNM)

Professional Development

2026 High-quality online teaching workshop, Minnesota North College, Giant's Ridge, MN

2022 Advanced bird banding course, Institute for Bird Populations, Wolf Creek, MN

2022 Basic Wetland Delineation, Wetland Training Institute, Los Alamos, NM

2022 Fundamentals of Institute of Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), Los Alamos, NM

2021 Distance sampling workshop, University of Saint Andrews, online

2021 Mexican Spotted Owl survey training, US Fish and Wildlife Service, NM

2021 Jemez Mountain's Salamander survey training, US Fish and Wildlife Service, NM

2017 Methods in Phylogenetics, University of New Mexico, NM

Selected Peer-Reviewed Publications

- Stanek, J.E., **Gadek, C.R.**, Milligan, S.E., Thompson, B.E., Tranquillo, K.A., Trader, L.L., Hathcock, C.D. and Fettig, S.M., 2025. Fire and Drought Affect Multiple Aspects of Diversity in a Migratory Bird Stopover Community. Biology, 14(6), p.597. (link)
- Cartron, J.L.E., **Gadek, C.R.,** Dunnum, J.L., Witt, C.C., Campbell, M.L., Romero, S.J., Johnson, A.B., Kutz, J., Wolf, C., Choyke, S.J. and Cook, J.A., 2025. Ecosystem-wide PFAS characterization and environmental behavior at a heavily contaminated desert oasis in the southwestern US. Environmental Research, p.121872. (link)
- Salazar-Hamm, P.S.‡, **Gadek, C.R.‡**, Mann, M.A., Steinberg, M., Montoya, K.N., Behnia, M., Gyllenhaal, E.F., Brady, S.S., Takano, O.M., Williamson, J.L. and Witt, C.C., 2025. Phylogenetic and ecological drivers of the avian lung mycobiome and its potentially pathogenic component. Communications Biology, 8(1), p.634. ‡Equal contributions (link)
- Williamson, JL, **Gadek, CR**, Gyllenhaal, EF, Bauernfeind, SM, Bautista, EO, Baumann, MJ, Ricote, N, Marra, PP, Bozinovic, F, Singh, ND, and Witt, CC., 2025 Taxonomy, nomenclature, and identification of the giant hummingbirds (Patagona spp.) (Aves: Trochilidae). Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society, Volume 204, Issue 2. (preprint)
- Williamson, J.L., Gyllenhaal, E.F., Bauernfeind, S.M., Bautista, E., Baumann, M.J., **Gadek, C.R.**, Marra, P.P., Ricote, N., Valqui, T., Bozinovic, F. and Singh, N.D., 2024. Extreme elevational migration spurred cryptic speciation in giant hummingbirds. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 121(21), p.e2313599121. (link)
- Witt, CC, **Gadek, CR**, Cartron, J-L, Andersen, MJ, Campbell, ML, Castro-Farías, M, Gyllenhaal, EF, Johnson, AB, Malaney, J, Montoya, KN, Patterson, A, Vinciguerra, NT, Williamson, JL, Cook, JA, and Dunnum, JL. Extraordinary levels of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in vertebrate animal tissues at a New Mexico desert oasis: multiple pathways for wildlife and human exposure. Environmental Research 249: 118229. (link)
- **Gadek, C.R.**, Williamson, J.L. and Witt, C.C., 2022. Intra-and interspecific nest stacking in marsh-dwelling songbirds. Biotropica, 54(5), pp.1131-1136. (link)
- **Gadek, CR**, Newsome, SD, Beckman, EJ, Chavez, AN, Galen, SC, Bautista, E, and Witt, CC. 2017. Why are tropical mountain passes "low" for some species? Genetic and stable-isotope tests for differentiation, migration and expansion in elevational generalist songbirds. Journal of Animal Ecology. (link)

Full publication list available on Google Scholar.