

KAYLEIGH CHALKOWSKI

Quantitative Ecologist

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EDUCATION

2025	PhD, Wildlife Sciences Dissertation: "Bridging the divide: Movement and disease ecology of free-roaming domestic dogs (<i>Canis lupus familiaris</i>) across ecological and anthropogenic interfaces."	Auburn University
2020	M.Sc., Wildlife Sciences Thesis: "Risk factors for infection and environmental contamination of parasites of free-roaming cats."	Auburn University
2013	B.Sc., Biological Sciences concentration: Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.	Cornell University

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2026-present	Assistant Professor of Wildlife Epidemiology Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M Kingsville	Kingsville, TX
2025-2026	Ecological Modeling Specialist The Wilderness Society	Denver, CO
2022-2025	Computational Biologist National Wildlife Research Center, USDA-APHIS-WS	Fort Collins, CO
2017	Research Technician University of Hawaii, College of Agriculture and Human Resources	Lihue, HI
2015-2016	Americorps Intern Fish and Wildlife Service, Kaua'i National Wildlife Refuge Complex	Hanalei, HI
2015	Golden-cheeked Warbler Monitoring Technician Texas Public Works	Fort Hood, TX
2014	Endangered Seabird Research technician Kaua'i Endangered Seabird Recovery Project	Hanapepe, HI
2013-2014	Americorps Intern Kaua'i Forest Bird Recovery Project	Hanapepe, HI
2013	Tree Swallow Research Technician Cornell University, Lab of Dr. David Winkler	Ithaca, NY

PUBLICATIONS

[†] denotes undergraduate author

^{*} denotes equal contribution

Koriakin K, **Chalkowski K**, Pepin KM, Miller RS, VerCauteren KC, Snow NP (2026). In touch with the dead: wild pig contact with conspecifics and its implications for disease. *Preventive Veterinary Medicine* 106964.

Chalkowski K^{*}, Miller RS^{*}, Chandler JC, Campos A, Arruda B, Baker AL, Anderson TK, Klemm J, Brown VR, VerCauteren KC, Snow NP, Pepin K (2026). Elevated Exposure to Influenza A Viruses in Wild Pigs, Texas, USA. *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* 62(1): 185-191.

Chalkowski K^{*}, Pepin KM^{*}, Lavelle MJ, Miller RS, Fischer J, Brown VR, Glow M, Smith B, Cook SM, Kohen KJ, Sherburne S, Smith H, Leland B, VerCauteren KC, Snow NP (2025) Operational lessons learned from simulating an elimination response to a transboundary animal disease in wild animals. *Preventive Veterinary Medicine* 234:106365.

Snow NP, Smith B, Lavelle MJ, Glow MP, **Chalkowski K**, Leland BR, Sherburne S, Fischer JW, Kohen KJ, Cook SM, Smith H, VerCauteren KC, Miller RS, Pepin KM (2024) Comparing efficiencies of population control methods for responding to introductions of transboundary animal diseases in wild pigs. *Preventive Veterinary Medicine* 233:106347.

Paez AM, **Chalkowski K**, Zohdy S, Willoughby J. (2022) Management of avian malaria in populations of high conservation concern. *Parasites & Vectors* 15(1):1-6.

Chalkowski K, Morgan A[†], Lepczyk, CA, Zohdy S. (2021) Spread of an avian eye fluke, *Philophthalmus gralli*, through biological invasion of an intermediate host. *Journal of Parasitology* 107(2), pp 336-348.

Durden LA, Kessler SE, Radespiel U, Hasiniaina AF, Stekolnikov AA, **Chalkowski K**, Zohdy S (2021). Host Associations of Ectoparasites of the Gray Mouse Lemur, *Microcebus murinus*, in Northwestern Madagascar. *Journal of Parasitology*: 107(1), pp 108-114.

Chalkowski K, Fiedler K, Lucey B, Lepczyk CA. (2020). Spatial epidemiology of *Toxoplasma gondii* seroprevalence in sentinel feral chickens (*Gallus gallus*) in Kauai, Hawaii. *Pacific Conservation Biology*: 27(2), pp 170-176.

Chalkowski K, Wilson, A, Lepczyk CA, Zohdy S. (2019) Who let the cats out: A global meta-analysis of parasitic infection risk in domestic cats (*Felis catus*). *Biology Letters*: 15(4), 20180840.

Chalkowski K, Lepczyk CA, Zohdy S. (2018) Parasite ecology of invasive species: conceptual framework and new hypotheses. *Trends in Parasitology*: 34(8) pp 655-663.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

2021	U.S. Student Research Fulbright Fellowship - Madagascar Institute of International Education	\$32,530
2019	Conservation Small Grant American Primatological Society	\$1,500

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS

2024	FY 2024 Achievement Award USDA-APHIS-WS	
2024	APHIS Group Achievement Award Runner-up USDA-APHIS-WS	
2023	FY 2023 Achievement Award USDA-APHIS-WS	
2020	Microbial Ecology Section Annual Meeting Attendance Award Ecological Society of America	
2020	Enabling Interdisciplinary and Team Science Workshop Travel Award American Institute of Biological Sciences	
2020	Drummond Award College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment, Auburn University	
2019	Harry Murphy Award College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment, Auburn University	
2018	Graduate Research Fellowship Program Honorable Mention National Science Foundation	
2018-2020	Graduate Writing Fellowship College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment, Auburn University	
2017	Cell and Molecular Biology Graduate Research Fellowship College of Science and Mathematics, Auburn University	
2017	First place, Pauahi Street Community Art Proposal Hawaii FEAST (Funding Emerging Artists Through Sustainable Tactics)	
2016	Congress Student Participation Opportunity Award IUCN World Conservation	
2014, 2016	Segal Education Award Americorps Corporation for National and Community Service	

2014 **Segal Education Award**
Americorps Corporation for National and Community Service

SELECTED PRESS

- Jun 21 2021 ***Honolulu Civil Beat***
Why The Pandemic Made It Harder To Protect Birds From Hawaii's Feral Cats. Mention of Chalkowski et al. 2019 in *Pacific Conservation Biology*. tinyurl.com/cf647fk7
- Oct 21 2019 ***Honolulu Magazine***
Local artists paint Honolulu's streets with surprising Hawai'i-inspired art. bit.ly/2EXGFON
- Apr 17 2019 ***The New York Times***
Look what the cat dragged in: Parasites. nyti.ms/2PXIIDt
- Apr 18 2019 ***Newsweek***
Should you keep your cat indoors? Yes, say scientists. bit.ly/30a29NY
- Apr 17 2019 ***France 24***
For its health and yours, keep the cat indoors. france24.com/link
- Jan 4 2018 ***Honolulu Star Advertiser***
Murals bring native birds, plants back to Chinatown. bit.ly/2uxWiU7
- Jan 5 2018 ***Hawaii News Now***
The concrete bulb-outs in Chinatown are now much less of an eyesore. bit.ly/2UohdY4
- May 28 2017 ***Hawaii News Now***
Exhibition encourages action on endangered species. bit.ly/2Uj70MF

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Chalkowski, Fullman T, Johnson H, Gurarie E, Larue B, Nandy S, Barbour N, Beaupre C, Gunn A, Russell D, Meek M. Developing a simulation model for caribou response to roads. In symposium: Understanding and Mitigating Infrastructure Impacts on Migratory Caribou. North American Caribou Workshop, 2026, Oral presentation.

Chalkowski K, Sacks AE, Boughton RK, Miller RS, Snow NP, Beasley JC, Ditchkoff SS, Evans T, Gray SM, Hewitt J, Lewis JS, Parsons MA, VerCauteren KC, Webb SL, Young JK, Wittemeyer G, Pepin KM. National-scale mapping of wild pig movement: implications for ASF and FMD. Symposium on Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD): Understanding FMD Epidemiology and Ecology to Identify Priorities for U.S. Risk Assessment and Research. March 11-13, 2025. Oral presentation

Invited Guest Lecturer. Scientific writing and publishing. Department of Anglophone Studies, University of Antananarivo. February 2022. Antananarivo, Madagascar

Chalkowski K., Brownlee, J, Lepczyk, CA, Wilson A, Zohdy S. Association of socioeconomic and ecological factors on peridomestic animals. In symposium: Invasive Species and Infectious Diseases: Interactive Effects in Ecological Communities. Ecological Society of America annual meeting, 2020, Online. Oral presentation.

Chalkowski K, Brownlee J, Lepczyk C, Wilson A, Zohdy S. (2019) How do invasive carnivores influence human health and wildlife conservation in Madagascar? Symposium: The interplay of infectious disease and biodiversity conservation. Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation Annual Meeting, 2019. Oral presentation.

PRESENTATIONS

[†] denotes undergraduate author

Koriakin K, Pepin KM, **Chalkowski K**, Miller RS, VerCauteren KC, Snow NP. In touch with the dead: wild pig contact with conspecifics and its implications for disease. Wildlife Damage Management Conference, March 24-28, 2025. Oral presentation.

Snow NP, **Chalkowski K**, Smith B, Lavelle M, Glow MP, Leland BR, Sherburne S, Fischer J, Kohen K, Cook SM, Smith H, VerCauteren KC, Miller RS, Pepin KM. Efficiency of culling techniques for controlling disease introductions in wild pigs and their impacts on wild pig movement behavior. Symposium on Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD): Understanding FMD Epidemiology and Ecology to Identify Priorities for U.S. Risk Assessment and Research. March 11-13, 2025. Oral presentation

Chalkowski K, Snow NP, Leland BR, VerCauteren KC, Miller RS, Pepin KM. Intensive population control for TAD control influences space-use: case with wild pigs (*Sus scrofa*). Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases, January 18-21, 2025. Oral presentation.

Snow NP, Smith B, Lavell MJ, Glow MP, **Chalkowski K**, Leland BR, Sherburne S, Fischer JW, Kohen K, Cook SM, Smith H, VerCauteren KC, Miller RS, Pepin KM. Comparing efficiencies of population control methods for responding to transboundary animal disease threats in wild pigs. The Wildlife Society, October 19-23, 2024. Oral presentation.

Chalkowski K, Snow NP, VerCauteren KC, Miller RS, Smith B, Kohen K, Lavelle M, Glow M, Fischer J, Sherburne S, Smith H, Pepin KM. A framework for optimizing response to a foreign animal disease in a wildlife host species. Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases Conference, May 22-25, 2023. Poster presentation.

Von Hagen, RL, Prakash V, **Chalkowski K**, Gitzen R, Fantle-Lepczyk J, Hartman P, Lepczyk CA. (2021) Decision-making tools for evaluating candidate species for de-extinction. Society for Conservation Biology 30th International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB 2021), December 13-17, 2021. Virtual Meeting.

Prakash, V., R. Lynn Von Hagen, K. **Chalkowski**, J. Fantle-Lepczyk, R. Gitzen, C.A. Lepczyk, and P. Hartman. Prioritization of species for de-extinction using a structured decision making framework. Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting, August 2-6, 2021. Virtual Meeting.

Chalkowski, K, Lafleur M, Andriantsaralaza S. Subverting paradigms of inclusion in conservation biology through empowerment of writers. National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing, 2021, Online. Oral presentation.

Farris, ZJ, Murphy A, Zohdy S, Anderson C, **Chalkowski K**, Ross P, Semel B, Gerber B. Madagascar's missing carnivores: new surveys and estimates for rainforest protected areas. The Wildlife Society annual meeting, Reno, Nevada, United States, 2019, Oral presentation.

Chalkowski K, Fiedler K, Zohdy S, Lucey W, Lepczyk C. Spatial Epidemiology of *Toxoplasma gondii* Infection Risk in Sentinel Feral Chickens (*Gallus gallus*) in Kauai, Hawaii. Auburn Research Student Symposium, 2019. Oral presentation.

[†]Brownlee J, **Chalkowski K**, Zohdy S. Is gross domestic product (GDP) associated with pathogen prevalence in feral cats (*Felis catus*)? Auburn Research Student Symposium, 2019. Oral presentation.

Chalkowski K, [†]Morgan A, Zohdy S. (2018) Under the radar: invasion of an avian eye-fluke, *Philophthalmus gralli*. American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Annual Meeting, 2018. Poster presentation.

Chalkowski K, Lepczyk C, Zohdy S. Parasite Ecology of Invasive Species: New Directions. Population Biology of Vector-borne Diseases Symposium, Center for Ecology of Infectious Diseases, 2018 Poster Presentation.

TEACHING

PROFESSIONAL ROLES

2026-present **Assistant Professor** **Kingsville, TX**
Department of Rangeland and Wildlife Sciences, Dick and Mary Lewis Kleberg College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Texas A&M Kingsville

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2026	Rangeland and Wildlife Management, RWSC 2330 Assistant Professor. Dick and Mary Lewis Kleberg College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Texas A&M Kingsville	Kingsville, TX
2021	BIOL 3060 Graduate Teaching Assistant College of Science and Mathematics, Auburn University	Auburn, AL
2021	ACT Math/Science Instructor Elite Prep Educational Institute	Cupertino, CA
2020-2021	Reading and Writing Instructor Elite Prep Educational Institute	Cupertino, CA
2018-2020	FORY 3050 Graduate Teaching Assistant College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment, Auburn University	Andalusia, AL
2018-2020	FORY 4970 Graduate Teaching Assistant College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment, Auburn University	Andalusia, AL

MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE

2022	Coding for Conservation Mentorship of PhD student Tonisoa Ivoandry at University of Antananarivo on quantitative analyses of Baobab seed morphology. Manuscript in prep.	
2020-2021	Mentor of Undergraduate Student Mentorship of undergraduate, Katelyn Wing, at University of Richmond in lab of Dr. Jonathan Richardson on quantitative analysis of global prevalence of <i>Rattus</i> pathogens and environmental covariates. Manuscript in prep.	
2018-2019	Mentor of Undergraduate Student Mentored undergraduate Abigail Morgan in scientific writing as part of a collaborative manuscript I led. Student contributed to data collection and analysis and earned coauthorship	
2018-2019	Mentor of Undergraduate Student Mentored undergraduate Joi Brownlee in communication of scientific findings as part of a collaborative manuscript I led. Student contributed to data collection and analysis and earned coauthorship on a manuscript on a manuscript in prep, and presented their findings at Auburn Student Research Symposium.	
2019	Graduate Writing Partners Mentor Mentored Master's student in the School of Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Aquatic Sciences, Benjamin Prior, on scientific writing of his literature review for his Master's thesis. Held regular meetings throughout the Spring semester (2 hrs/week; 30 hours total).	

- 2019 **Graduate Writing Partners Mentor**
Mentored PhD student in the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment, Debit Datta, on scientific writing of his literature review for his dissertation. Held regular meetings throughout the Fall semester (2 hrs/week; 30 hours total).
- 2018 **Graduate Writing Partners Mentor**
Mentored Master's student in the College of Agriculture, Rajveer Singh, on scientific writing of his literature review for his Master's thesis. Held regular meetings throughout the Spring semester (2 hrs/week; 30 hours total).

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

- 2026-present **Review editor**
Ecohealth
- 2021-2022 **Student Representative to Council**
American Society of Parasitologists

SCI-ART AND SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

- 2024 **Artist** **Fort Collins, CO**
"Sound of Science: A multimedia art event featuring a collective of creative scientists", Wolverine Farm Publick House. Art Exhibition.
- 2022 **Symposium Organizer** **College Station, TX**
"Communicating Complexity: Integrating Art, Story, and Parasitology", American Society of Parasitologists Annual Meeting. Symposium.
- 2019 **Sci-pub Co-organizer** **Opelika, AL**
"Wild Science: A sci-pub about exploring the natural world", Red Clay Brewing Company. Lecture Series.
- 2019 **Photographer, Videographer, Volunteer** **Birmingham, AL**
"Inherent Rhythm: A live exhibit", Clubhouse on Highland. Performance Art Exhibit.
- 2018 **Symposium Co-organizer** **Auburn, AL**
"Can art save the planet?: A symposium on art and planetary health", Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art, Auburn University. Symposium.
- 2017 **Artist** **Honolulu, HI**
"Honolulu Wetland Revival Project", Hawaii FEAST. Public art.
- 2017 **Curator, Artist** **Honolulu, HI**
"The Endangered Ark", Ark of the Unicorns. Group Art Exhibition.
- 2013 **Volunteer** **Tawau, Borneo**
Nature education outreach.