

# **Grayson M. Clark**

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## **EDUCATION**

- Texas A&M University** **2018- Present**
- Masters Degree
  - Major: Aquaculture (Fish Nutrition)
  - Primary Investigator: Dr. Delbert Gatlin III
- University of Florida** **2017-2018**
- Masters Degree
  - Major: Food Science
  - Primary Investigator: Dr. George Baker
- University of Florida** **2014-2017**
- Bachelors of Science Degree
  - Major: Food Science
  - 3.57 GPA (*Cum laude honors*)
- UF in Italy Study Abroad Experience** **Summer 2016**
- Traveled to 8 Italian and Sicilian cities over 19 days
  - Learned traditional Italian methods of food and wine production
- Santa Fe College** **2012-2014**
- Associate of Arts degree – Biological Science
  - 3.1 GPA

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

- **Graduate Assistant** – Texas A&M University **Summer 2018-Present**  
Learned how to manage a replicated fish nutrition experiments in a Recirculating Aquaculture System, how to harvest and process large amounts of fish from earthen ponds using a seine net, live feeds (rotifer) production, statistical analysis of data collected from experiments using the software JMP, and larval fish rearing
- **Crew Chief** – 2 College Brothers Moving & Storage **Spring 2018-Summer 2018**  
Designated as the individual in responsible for managing a crew of movers for each customer/job assigned to work on. Ensured the timeliness of the move, managed paperwork necessary to complete the billing and liability release, instructed coworkers on the best method to place specific items in the moving truck to ensure their safety, ensured all fragile items were protected as best as possible, assisted with moving furniture into the moving truck, proficient in how to orient objects in a limited amount of space and customer management during a stressful situation. Also gained experience driving large vehicles such as a 16- and 26-foot box truck.
- **Research Assistant** – UF Tomato Breeding Lab **Summer 2017-Present**  
Assist with all aspects of the tomato breeding program in National Academy of Science Member Dr. Harry Klee's group. Tasks include greenhouse and field production of tomato plants,

pollinations for making hybrid seeds, fruit harvest and sample preparation, DNA extraction and PCR analysis

- **Research Assistant** – UF Horticultural Genetics & Breeding Lab **2009-2016**  
Assisted with all aspects of the coleus breeding program in Dr. David Clark's group. Tasks included greenhouse and field production of plants, performing genetic and environmental screens for several different quantitative traits, seed collection and analysis, data acquisition and basic statistical analysis

**Co-inventor on 21 US Plant Patents** for creating new cultivars of Coleus

- 2017 US Plant Patent PP 29,820: A coleus plant named 'UF 14-24-1' 'Flamethrower Salsa Verde'
  - 2017 US Plant Patent PP 28,591: A coleus plant named 'UF 13-26-7' 'Inferno'
  - 2017 US Plant Patent PP 28,566: A coleus plant named 'UF 13-42-4' 'Ruby Slipper'
  - 2017 US Plant Patent PP 28,517: A coleus plant named 'UF 13-48-27' 'French Quarter'
  - 2016 US Plant Patent PP 27,269: A coleus plant named 'UF 12-22-1' 'Campfire'
  - 2016 US Plant Patent PP 27,288: A coleus plant named 'UF12-82-3' 'Flamethrower Chipotle'
  - 2016 US Plant Patent PP 27,500 A coleus plant named 'UF 12-74-3' 'Marquee Special Effect'
  - 2016 US Plant Patent PP 27,499: A coleus plant named 'UF 12-73-5' 'Flamethrower Spiced Curry'
  - 2016 US Plant Patent PP 27,076: A coleus plant named 'UF 08-5-10' 'Marquee Blonde Bombshell'
  - 2016 US Plant Patent PP 27,077: A coleus plant named 'UF 09-8-37' 'Marquee Box Office Bronze'
  - 2016 US Plant Patent PP 27,078: A coleus plant named 'UF 08-19-10' 'Marquee Red Carpet'
  - 2016 US Plant Patent PP 27,126: A coleus plant named 'UF 10-45-12' 'Coleosaurus'
  - 2016 US Plant Patent PP 27,140: A coleus plant named 'UF 12-30-6' 'Lime Time'
  - 2015 US Plant Patent PP 25,653: A coleus plant named 'UF 11-74-5' 'Mainstreet Gran Via'
  - 2015 US Plant Patent PP 25,652: A coleus plant named 'UF 12-6-2' 'Mainstreet Sunset Boulevard'
  - 2015 US Plant Patent PP 25,626: A coleus plant named 'UF 12-35-9' 'Mainstreet Wall Street'
  - 2015 US Plant Patent PP 25,651: A coleus plant named 'UF 12-62-2' 'Mainstreet River Walk'
  - 2015 US Plant Patent PP 25,650: A coleus plant named 'UF 12-87-9' 'Mainstreet Oxford Street'
  - 2015 US Plant Patent PP 25,627: A coleus plant named 'UF 11-74-12' 'Gator Glory'
  - 2013 US Plant Patent PP 23,585: A coleus plant named 'UF 08-4-3' 'Wasabi'
  - 2013 US Plant Patent PP 23,586: A coleus plant named 'UF 08-17-4' 'Sultana'
- **Research Assistant** – UF Food Sensory Analysis Lab **Spring 2016-Spring 2017**
    - Assisted with preparing and analyzing sensory analysis experiments in Dr. Charles Sims' group. Tasks included preparation of food and beverage samples for sensory analysis, conducting and managing sensory panels, and the proper sanitization/cleanup once an experiment had been preformed
  - **Teaching Assistant** – ORH1030: Plants Gardens & You **Fall 2016**
    - Graded assignments, entered grades and assisted with class activities

- **Research Assistant** – UF Blueberry Breeding Lab **Summer 2014**
  - Collected blueberry germplasm and preserved them in liquid nitrogen at USDA Conservatory/Oregon State University Research Facility for use in breeding for higher folate levels in blueberries for Dr. Jim Olmstead’s group
- **Research Assistant** – Human Sensory Lab **Spring 2011**
  - Assisted with preparing chemicals and laboratory supplies used in screening for human super tasters in National Academy of Science member Dr. Linda Bartoshuk’s group

## **LEADERSHIP AND INVOLVEMENT**

- Coastal Conservation Association- Brazos Valley Chapter **Spring 2019 -Present**
  - Member
  - Help to raise money and awareness for coastal conservation
- Attended the World Aquaculture Society’s “Aquaculture 2019” Conference **Spring 2019**
  - Heard speeches about new developments, technologies and other general information about world aquaculture practices
  - Networked with companies and government agencies who are involved in the aquaculture industry
  - Presented a poster on the topic of “EVALUATION OF PALATABILITY ENHANCERS IN PLANT-BASED DIETS WITH JUVENILE RED DRUM (*Sciaenops ocellatus*)”
- Member of Stewards of the Wild **Fall 2018- Summer 2019**
  - Program which helps Texas Parks and Wildlife educate the public about conservation and maintaining balance in the environment
  - Participated in service events such as helping to clean up local state parks
- Attended the Institute of Food and Technology “IFT 2017” Conference **Summer 2017**
  - Listened to talks about new technology in the field of food science
  - Networked with major companies which deal with food science
  - Had the opportunity to see the new technologies and breakthrough developments involving food or the food making process
- Volunteer- Aquatics and Seafood Analysis Lab **Spring 2017-Summer 2017**
  - Worked on a student project involving product development for a vegan option for shrimp
  - Used the enzyme transglutaminase (known as “meat glue”) to bind the algae product into a shape of a shrimp
  - Weekly lecture from advising professor about HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points) training
- Coastal Conservation Association- University of Florida Chapter **Fall 2016-Spring 2018**
  - Treasurer
  - Assisted with coordinating the end of the year banquet, the main fundraiser of the club
  - Managed the budget for the end of the year banquet
  - Handled money when it came time to collect fees from other members or payments from donors
  - Helped to coordinate tri-weekly meetings
- Founding Member – Salty Gators Saltwater Fishing Club **Fall 2016-Spring 2018**
  - Vice-President
  - Assisted with acquiring sponsorships and helping to develop the foundation of the club for future members
  - Helped to film the Television Show called “Reeltime Florida Sportsman with Captain George Gozdz” where Salty Gators was the featured guest

- Created and managed social media platforms to recruit new members and aid in the club's branding development
- Coordinated club service events to aid in coastal conservation efforts such as beach cleanups and coastal restoration projects
- Member of Institute of Food & Technology – Florida Section **Fall 2016- Fall 2017**
  - Stayed up to date with new technology in the food science field
- Involved in the “Fruved” peer mentor program at UF **Fall 2016**
  - Mentored incoming freshmen to help improve overall wellbeing during the transition to college
  - Gave mentees tips on how to avoid the “freshmen fifteen” and how to deal with new stressors associated with coming to college
- Attended the “2016 Independent Plant Breeder Conference” **Fall 2016**
  - Presented a poster on the “UF Coleus Breeding Program”
  - Listened to talks about different methods of plant breeding and discoveries within the field

### **Awards**

- AgriLife Research Strategic Initiative Assistantship