

Michael J. Baltzley

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Education

- 2006 Ph.D. in Biology. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
Dissertation: Evolution and neurobiology of the neural circuitry underlying crawling in nudibranch molluscs.
- 1997 B.S. in Biology with Honors. Pennsylvania State University, University Park.
Minor in Marine Science.

Professional Experience

- 2022-current Director of Institutional Research. Western Oregon University.
- 2019-current Professor. Western Oregon University, Biology Department.
- 2019-2022 Associate Provost for Academic Effectiveness. Western Oregon University.
- 2018-2020 Biology Department Head. Western Oregon University, Biology Department.
- 2014-2019 Associate Professor. Western Oregon University, Biology Department.
- 2011-2014 Assistant Professor. Western Oregon University, Biology Department.
- 2008-2011 Visiting Assistant Professor. St. Mary's College of Maryland, Department of Biology.
- 2006-2008 Postdoctoral Fellow. University of California, San Diego, Department of Biological Sciences. Supervisor: Dr. William B. Kristan, Jr.

Peer-reviewed Publications

Boomer SM, Baltzley MJ, Dutton BD, Smith PN. 2024. The faecal microbiome of the Pacific banana slug, *Ariolimax columbianus*, displays seasonal variation. In Press. *Journal of Molluscan Studies*.

Smith PN², Boomer SM, Baltzley MJ. 2019. Fecal microbiota dynamics in *Cornu aspersum* during dietary changes and antibiotic challenge. *Journal of Molluscan Studies*. 85 (3): 327-335. doi: 10.1093/mollus/eyz016

Baltzley MJ, Nabity MW. 2018. Reanalysis of an oft-cited paper on honeybee magnetoreception reveals random behavior. *Journal of Experimental Biology*. jeb185454. doi: 10.1242/jeb.185454

Boomer SM, Baltzley MJ, Poole AZ, Latham-Scott KL, Poole JP. 2017. An in-house biology placement test improves success in majors introductory biology. *American Biology Teacher*. 79 (9): 720-727. doi: 10.1525/abt.2017.79.9.720

²Hemmert H, Baltzley MJ. 2016. Relationship between size and speed in a terrestrial snail. *Biological Bulletin*. 230 (1): 78-84. doi: 10.1086/BBLv230n1p78

²James TA, Baltzley MJ, ²Davis S, ²Zachary ED, Latham KL. 2016. Innate directional preferences of *Drosophila melanogaster*. *PURE Insights*. 5 (1): 3.

²Gibbons KR, Baltzley MJ. 2014. Differing synaptic strengths between homologous mechanosensory neurons. *Invertebrate Neurobiology*. 14 (2): 103-111. doi: 10.1007/s10158-014-0168-2

¹Baltzley MJ, ²Sherman A, Cain SD, Lohmann KJ. 2011. Conservation of a *Tritonia* Pedal peptides network in gastropods. *Invertebrate Biology*. 130: 313-324. doi: 10.1111/j.1744-7410.2011.00242.x

Baltzley MJ, Gaudry Q, Kristan WB Jr. 2010. Species-specific behavioral patterns correlate with differences in synaptic connections between homologous mechanosensory neurons. *Journal of Comparative Physiology A*. 196 (3): 181-197. doi: 10.1007/s00359-010-0503-y

¹Baltzley MJ, Lohmann KJ. 2008. Comparative study of TPep-like immunoreactive neurons in the central nervous system of nudibranch molluscs. *Brain, Behavior and Evolution*. 72 (3): 192-206. doi: 10.1159/000157356

Baltzley MJ, Paradise CJ, Dunson WA. 1999. Interactive effects of density and water sodium concentration on insect larvae inhabiting tree holes. *Journal of Freshwater Ecology*. 14 (1): 113-124.

¹Selected for cover photograph

²Undergraduate student

Other Publications

Baltzley MJ. 2016. Institutionalizing Creationism. *Science*. 352 (6291): 1285-1286.

Recent Abstracts at Scientific Conferences

2019 Batenhorst E², Knapp G², Wanderscheid N², Thomas S², Baltzley MJ, Latham-Scott KL. American Association for the Advancement of Science, Pacific Division, in Ashland, OR

2019 Baltzley MJ, Latham-Scott KL, Wanderscheid N², Ramos M², Batenhorst E². Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology in Tampa, FL

- 2018 ²Castillo CR, Baltzley MJ. Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology in San Francisco, CA
- 2017 ²McKechnie MM, ²Mendazona RL, ²Torrez S, ²Wallace NE, Baltzley MJ, Latham KL. Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology in New Orleans, LA
- 2017 ²Mendazona RL, ²Wallace NE, ²McKechnie MM, ²Torrez S, Baltzley MJ, Latham KL. Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology in New Orleans, LA
- 2017 ²Smith PN, Baltzley MJ, Boomer SM. Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology in New Orleans, LA

²Undergraduate student

Recent Grant and Fellowship Activity

- 2024 NSF Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM) Grant (**Pending**)
- 2023 Faculty Development Grant. Western Oregon University.
- 2019 Faculty Development Grant. Western Oregon University.
- 2018 Faculty Development Grant. Western Oregon University.
- 2017 NSF Research Opportunity Award Supplement to NSF Award #1454904 (PIs Dr. Karen Mesce and Dr. David Schulz).
- 2017 Faculty Development Grant. Western Oregon University.
- 2016 NSF Research Opportunity Award Supplement to NSF Award #1454904 (PIs Dr. Karen Mesce and Dr. David Schulz).
- 2016 Faculty Development Grant. Western Oregon University.

Recent Undergraduate Research Assistants

2019-20	³ Batenhorst, Eva ³ Knapp, Grace	³ Cabacungan, Nick ³ Marsen, Parker	
2018-19	³ Batenhorst, Eva ³ Thomas, Sydney	³ Knapp, Grace ³ Wanderscheid, Nick	
2017-18	³ Batenhorst, Eva ³ Csintalan, Erica	³ Franco, Maria ³ Wanderscheid, Nick	
2016-17	Castillo, Caitlin ³ Crumrine, Tori	³ Franco, Maria ³ McKecknie, Mariah	³ Mendazona, Rachel ⁴ Smith, Parker
2015-16	Hemmert, Heather ³ McKecknie, Mariah ³ Mendazona, Rachel	³ Torrez, Stephanie ⁴ Smith, Parker	Stevens, Kaylah ³ Wallace, Natalie

³Co-advised with Dr. Kristin L. Latham-Scott

⁴Co-advised with Dr. Sarah M. Boomer

Recent Significant Western Oregon University Service Activities

2022-current Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee member

2022-current At-large member of Faculty Senate Executive Committee

2022-current Faculty Senator for Natural Science & Mathematics

2018-20 Biology Department Head

2017-20 WOU Institutional Review Board member

2017-18 Natural Sciences Section Editor for PURE Insights

2014-19 Course Evaluation Committee member; Interim Chair in 2016

2013-19 Program for Undergraduate Research Experiences (PURE) Executive Committee member

Membership in Professional Societies

Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology

Other scholarly activity:

Chair of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Division of Neurobiology, Neuroethology, and Sensory Biology from 2018-2021

Invited participant in discussions on improving STEM education in Oregon as part of the “Thought Leaders” working group organized by Oregon Health & Science University from 2017-2021

Scientific Course Consultant for *Neural Systems and Behavior* at the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA in June, 2018

Reviewed Manuscripts for:

Folia Malacologica
Functional Ecology
Journal of Molluscan Studies
American Biology Teacher
Behavioural Processes
Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology
Biological Bulletin
Marine & Freshwater Behaviour & Physiology
Naturwissenschaften

*Proceedings of the Royal Society B
Scientific Reports*

Reviewed Grants for:

National Science Foundation
Israel Science Foundation

Reviewed Textbook Chapters for:

Sinauer Associates, Inc.

Question writer for Educational Testing Service GRE Biology Test