ANAHI CANTORAN

Contact: cantorananahi@gmail.com, 612-723-5747

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Plant and Microbial biology 2026
University of Minnesota
Saint Paul, MN

B.S. Biology (Magna cum laude) 2020
Augsburg University
Minneapolis, MN

A.A. Liberal Arts 2017
Minneapolis Community and Technical College
Minneapolis, MN

POSITIONS/EMPLOYMENT

Graduate Appointments

Fall 2025 Research Assistant, University of Minnesota, PI: Megan McCaghey

2023-2024 Research Assistant, MNDrive Environment, University of Minnesota, PI: Peter G. Kennedy

Other Professional Employment

Spring 2021 Laboratory Admin, Bio-Techne, MN

2019-2020 Research Assistant, Augsburg University, MN, PI: Jennifer Bankers-Fulbright

2018-2019 Lab Tutor, Augsburg University, MN, CHM 115L: General Chemistry Lab I

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fall 2026-Present Visiting Assistant Professor of Biology, Carleton College, Northfield, MN. BIOL125: Introductory Biology I

Fall 2026-Present Adjunct Biology Professor, Concordia University, St Paul, MN. BIO120: Introductory Biology I

Spring 2026 Guest lecturer, El Colegio, Pioneras, Minneapolis, MN

Spring 2026 Teaching Assistant, University of Minnesota, PMB 4121: Microbial Ecology and Applied Microbiology

Fall 2025 Guest lecturer, University of Minnesota, BIOL 3025, Molecular Biology and Society

Summer 2025	Teaching Assistant, University of Minnesota, PMB 8900, Itasca Orientation
Spring 2025	Teaching Assistant, University of Minnesota, BIOL 3004: Foundations of Biology for Biological Sciences Majors, Part II Laboratory
Fall 2024	Teaching Assistant, University of Minnesota, PMB 3007W: Plant, Algal, and Fungal Diversity and Adaptation
Summer 2024	Teaching Assistant, University of Minnesota, PMB 8900, Itasca Orientation

HONORS & AWARDS

2025	2nd place best graduate student oral presentations, ASM NCB, University of Iowa
2025	Plant and Microbial Biology Writing Fellowship, University of Minnesota
2025	Bernard and Jean Phinney Graduate Fellowship, University of Minnesota
2024	Organization of Tropical Studies (OTS) Course Scholarship
2021-2023	Creating Inclusive Cohorts (CIC) Fellowship, University of Minnesota
2021	Graduate School Diversity Office Summer Institute Fellowship, University of Minnesota
2022	National Science Foundation-Graduate Research Fellowship Program (NSF-GRFP) Honorable Mention
2019-2020	TRIO McNair Research Scholar

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

**Indicate which publications resulted from current doctoral research.*

Published

***Cantoran, A.**, Maillard, F., Baldrian, P., & Kennedy, P. G. (2023). Defining a core microbial necrobiome associated with decomposing fungal necromass. *FEMS Microbiology Ecology*, *99*(9). https://doi.org/10.1093/femsec/fiad098

***Cantoran, A.**, Maillard, F., Bermudez, R., Stefanski, A., Reich, P., & Kennedy, P. G. (2025). Warming and reduced rainfall alter fungal necromass decomposition rates and associated microbial community composition and functioning at a temperate-boreal forest ecotone. *Global Change Biology*, *31*(10) https://doi.org/10.1111/gcb.70536

Pending

***Cantoran, A.**, Kennedy, P. G., & Bazurto, J.V. (2026). The development and diversity of the leaf phytobiome, particularly *Methylobacterium*, differs substantially across co-occurring crop plants. (*In peer-review*)

Kverme Ronold, E., Kennedy, P. G., Skrede, I., **Cantoran, A.,** Maurice, S., Kauserud, H. (2025) Beyond the soil: Deadwood as a niche for ectomycorrhizal fungi. (*In peer-review*)

ORAL PRESENTATIONS & POSTERS

**Indicate which presentations and posters resulted from doctoral research.*

Oral presentations

***Cantoran, A.**, Kennedy, P. G., & Bazurto, J.V., "Dynamic microbial loads and assembly on the leaves of varying crop species", American Society of Microbiology Northern Central Branch (ASM NCB) Conference, (November 2025, IA)

***Cantoran, A.**, Maillard, F., Baldrian, P., & Kennedy, P. G., "Who decomposes the decomposers? Defining a core microbial necrobiome associated with decomposing fungal necromass". National Diversity in STEM Conference, SACNAS, (October 2023, Portland, OR)

Cantoran, A. & Bankers-Fulbright, J., "Active Learning vs. Traditional Lecturing: Assessing student learning gains in small introductory biology classes at Augsburg University", Baylor University McNair Conference (October 2020, Virtual Conference)

Posters

***Cantoran, A.**, Kennedy, P. G., & Bazurto, J.V., "Dynamic microbial loads and assembly on the leaves of varying crop species", National Diversity in STEM Conference, SACNAS, (October 2025, Columbus, OH)

***Cantoran, A.**, Maillard, F., Bermudez, R., Stefanski, A., Reich, P., Kennedy, P. G., "Warming and reduced rainfall alter fungal necromass decomposition rates and associated microbial community composition and functioning at the temperate-boreal forest ecotone", Ecological Society of America Conference (August 2024, Long Beach, CA)

***Cantoran, A.**, Maillard, F., Baldrian, P., & Kennedy, P. G.,"Who decomposes the decomposers? Defining a core microbial necrobiome associated with decomposing fungal necromass". Mycological Society of America Conference (July 2023, Flagstaff, AR)

Cantoran, A. & Bankers-Fulbright, J., "Active Learning vs. Traditional Lecturing: Assessing student learning gains in small introductory biology classes at Augsburg University", Augsburg University Research Symposium (April 2021, Zyzzogeton Student Research Poster Symposium, Augsburg University, MN)

SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

2023-2024	Vice President, Phytograds (PMB Graduate Student Association)
2022-2024	Officer, Phytograds (PMB Graduate Student Association)
2023-2024	Member, College of Biological Science's Leadership Council

SCIENCE OUTREACH & MENTORING

February 2025	Latin Americans in STEM, Science Museum of Minnesota, MN. Showcased dried fungal specimens, live cultures of bacteria and fungi under the microscope, and distributed microbe trading cards to the public in English and Spanish.
January 2025	High School Science Bowl Scorekeeper, Minnesota Academy of Science, MN.
2023-2024	Graduate Student Engagement & Community (GSEC) Mentor, Científico Latino, Virtual. Co-mentor for three first year graduate students that identified as Latino or person of color and attended monthly virtual workshops for succeeding in graduate school.
2022-2024	Youth in Action! Mentor, Comunidades Latinas Unidas en Servicio (CLUES, Latin Communities United in Service), MN. Mentor for a high school Latina student and attended monthly workshops for building community, communication skills, and applying for college.
April 2023	Meet a Microbiologist, Sociable Cider Werks, MN. Showcased fungal and bacterial specimens and provided art activities to the public.
Spring 2023	Biology Saves the World (BSW) Focus Scientist for BIOL 1806, University of Minnesota, MN. Focus scientist where I showcased my research to first year CBS students and answered questions during two lecture sessions.
March 2023, 2024	Minnesota State Science & Engineering Fair Judge, Minnesota Academy of Science, MN.
2021-2023	Field Guides Undergraduate Mentor, University of Minnesota, MN. Mentored an undergraduate student though graduation, helping with research and job opportunities.
February 2022	Middle School Science Bowl Scorekeeper, Minnesota Academy of Science, MN.

September 2022	Spotlight Science, "Fungus Fest", Bell Museum, MN. Showcased fungal specimens to the public, answering questions and providing information.
2017-2018	One2One Mentor, Brooklyn Middle STEAM School, MN. Mentored a student through the academic year, assisted with goal planning and preparation for high school.
2016-2017	Classroom assistant, Green Central Elementary School, MN. Assisted with reading, writing, and math sections for a bilingual (English and Spanish) 1st grade classroom.

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

2022-Present	Mycological Society of America
2021-Present	Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS)