**Brandi Pessman**

1141 South 10th Street #1, Lincoln, NE 68502 \* bjpessman@gmail.com \* (815)281-1464

**Education**

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln**, *Lincoln, NE* **August 2019-Present**

School of Biological Sciences, *Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior*

Advisor: Dr. Eileen Hebets

PhD Student

**North Central College**, *Naperville, IL* **September 2015-June 2019**

Bachelor of Science with Honors in Biology with minors in Mathematics and Chemistry

 *Summa cum laude*

Honors Thesis: *The effect of rearing density and female presence on the aggressive behaviors of male Acheta domesticus*

Advisor: Dr. Chandreyee Mitra

**University of Glasgow**, *Glasgow, Scotland* **September-December 2017**

**Research Experience**

**Capstone Course in Animal Behavior Fall 2018**

North Central College, *Department of Biology*

Advisor: Dr. Chandreyee Mitra

**NSF-REU Summer Internship for Undergraduates Summer 2018**

Indiana University,*Center for the Integrative Study of Animal Behavior*

Advisor: Dr. G. Troy Smith

**Capstone Course in Environmental Biology Spring 2018**

North Central College, *Department of Biology*

Advisor: Dr. Chandreyee Mitra

**Summer Undergraduate Research Assistant Summer 2017**

North Central College, *Department of Biology*, Honors Thesis Research

Advisor: Dr. Chandreyee Mitra

**Summer Undergraduate Research Assistant Summer 2016**

North Central College, *Department of Biology*

Advisor: Dr. Chandreyee Mitra

**Teaching and Mentoring Experience**

Academic Tutor, *North Central College* March 2016-June 2019

Lab Assistant, *North Central College* January-March 2018

Preceptor for Biology, *North Central College* January-March 2018

Math Tutor at the Math Resource Center, *North Central College* January-March 2018

BURST Leader, *North Central College* September-November 2016

**Honors and Fellowships**

Honorable Mention for the NSF Funded Graduate Research Fellowship Program 2019

Honorable Mention for Genesis Undergraduate Poster Award, Animal Behavior Society 2018

Indiana University NSF-REU Summer Research Fellowship($5,500) 2018

Honorable Mention for the Barry Goldwater Scholarship 2018

North Central College Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship ($5,000 total) 2016/2017

Dean’s List 2015-2019

**Professional Organization Memberships**

Animal Behavior Society April 2018-Present

Tri-Beta, Biology Honor Society May 2017-Present

 Served as Vice President May 2018-May 2019

Alpha-Lambda-Delta, First Year Honor Society May 2016-Present

**Publications**

**Pessman, B,** Rae, R., Wagner, V. & Mitra, C. *Males reared in different densities display alternative mating strategies.* Manuscript in preparation.

**Professional Presentations**

**Pessman, B.,** Freiler, M. K., Smith, G. T. (2019). *Vasotocin and social experience affect aggression and electrocommunication in a weakly electric fish (Apteronotus albifrons).* Poster presentation at the Animal Behavior Society Meeting, University of Illinois-Chicago, Chicago, IL.

**Pessman, B.,** Freiler, M. K., Smith, G. T. (2019). *Vasotocin and social experience modulate aggression and electrocommunication in black ghost knifefish (Apteronotus albifrons).* Poster Presentation at the Rall Symposium, North Central College, Naperville, IL.

**Pessman, B.,** Rae, R., Mitra, C. (2018). *Juvenile social environment results in alternative mating strategies in Acheta domesticus males*. Poster presentation at the Animal Behavior Society Meeting, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI.

**Pessman, B.,** Mitra, C. (2018). *The effect of rearing density and female presence on the aggressive behaviors of male Acheta domesticus.* Oral presentation at the Rall Symposium, North Central College, Naperville, IL.

**Pessman, B**., Mitra, C. (2018). *The effect of rearing density and female presence on the aggressive behaviors of male Acheta domesticus.* Oral presentation at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research, University of Central Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, OK.

**Pessman, B.,** Kreckman, J., Mitra, C. (2017). *Plasticity and Reproductive Investment: A comparative study of reproductive morphs of three field cricket species*. Poster presentation at the Midwest Ecology and Evolution Conference, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champain, IL.

**Pessman, B.,** Kreckman, J., Mitra, C. (2017). *Plasticity and Reproductive Investment: A comparative study of reproductive morphs of three field cricket species*. Poster presentation at the Rall Symposium, North Central College, Naperville, IL.

**Volunteer Work**

Science Fair Judge at Camelot School, *Naperville, IL* November 2018

Naperville Area Humane Society, *Naperville, IL* September 2015-September 2017

Cosley Zoo Job Shadow, *Wheaton, IL* Summer 2017

Breakaway Mission Trip, *Detroit, MI* March 2016