

# JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST

## REPORT ON EXPEDITION/PROJECT/CONFERENCE

**Expedition/Project/  
Conference Title:**

Evolution Conference 2014

**Travel Dates:**

20 – 24 June 2014

**Location:**

Raleigh, North Carolina, USA

**Group member(s):**

Josianne Lachapelle

**Aims:**

Give an oral presentation and network with other students and researchers

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**OUTCOME (not less than 300 words):-**

I am grateful for the funding provided by the James Rennie Bequest as it contributed in making it possible for me to attend the Evolution Conference.

The Evolution conference is the largest international conference in evolutionary biology. This year's meeting had close to 2,000 attendees, with 1,200 talks and 450 posters. The objectives of me attending this conference were to network with other researchers, share my work by giving an oral presentation, get a general impression for the research being carried out in evolutionary biology, and generate some ideas by attending talks on various subjects related to evolutionary biology.

I had the opportunity to meet many researchers and students, and to catch up with some past colleagues and researchers I had met at previous meetings. Giving a talk was also a very good experience, as it gave me the opportunity to further develop my presentation skills. I believe I made the most out of this opportunity as my talk generated many questions from the audience, and I had many people comment on it afterwards. It was impossible for me to attend all talks as many sessions were run in parallel. Nonetheless, I did attend many talks, some of which were directly in my field of research, and many of which were outside my field of research. I enjoyed being able to choose to attend a session on any topic, and and it that way get exposed to a vast array of different research topics. There was one symposium, 'Modern approaches to local adaptation', that was particularly stimulating. The invited speakers were all very good presenters and their research was very interesting. One of the talks in this symposium addressed a question that I have attempted to address in my PhD research. It was useful to hear about this group's approach and talk to the presenter afterwards about difficulties I had encountered.

Overall, I believe I have benefited from attending the conference. I come back feeling motivated to do more research, and read more about some of the research I heard in the talks.