**Education:**

Ph.D., Ecology, Ethology, and Evolution, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 2015

B.S., Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Arizona, 2009

**Research**

My research seeks to understand the causes and consequences of behavioral plasticity, how behavior influences evolutionary patterns, and how experience, in particular between parents and offspring, shapes development.  I use an integrated approach incorporating behavioral observation, neuroendocrine approaches, and genomic tools to answer broad questions from both proximate and ultimate perspectives. I use two excellent models of plasticity and evolution, the Trinidadian guppy (Poecilia reticulata) and the threespine stickleback (Gasterosteus aculeatus), to investigate outstanding questions in this field.

Current subjects of interest include:

* **Information integration across timescales**
* **Neural mechanisms of behavioral plasticity**
* **Evolution of parental effects**
* **Evolutionary consequences of correlated suites of traits**
* **Adult experience and plasticity**

I will be recruiting lab techs, postdocs, and graduate students soon; please keep an eye on my webpage (laurastein.weebly.com) for updates!

**Selected Publications**

**Stein, L.R.**, S.A. Bukhari, A.M. Bell. 2018. Personal and transgenerational cues are redundant at the phenotypic and molecular level. ***Nature Ecology and Evolution***, in press

**Stein, L.R.**, R.M. Trapp, and A.M. Bell. 2016. Do reproduction and parenting change personality? Insights from threespine stickleback. ***Animal Behaviour*** 112: 247-254.

Bell, A.M., K.M. McGhee, and **L.R. Stein**. 2016. Effects of mothers’ and fathers’ experience with predation risk on the behavioral development of their offspring in threespined sticklebacks. ***Current Opinion in Behavioral Sciences*** 7: 28-32.

**Stein, L.R.**, and A.M. Bell. 2015. Consistent individual differences in paternal behavior: a field study of threespine stickleback. ***Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology*** 69: 227-236.

**Stein, L.R.**, and A.M. Bell. 2014. Paternal programming in sticklebacks. ***Animal Behaviour*** 95: 165-171.