STATEMENT OF TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

My philosophy of educating is centered on the ideology that learning must be student focused, and that teaching is a collaborative process; learning from my students, colleagues, as well as the scientific community. My role entails utilizing my prowess to develop fluency within the student; gaining the ability to critically think and articulate themselves as scholar practitioners about information they are inundated with in the field. I strive to ignite passion within the student through motivation and enthusiasm for the sciences. Cultivating the transition from memorizing theories and facts to fostering effective science based communication and critical thought about concepts, theories, and practices. My former professors motivate me to invest in my students the way they invested in me. It is a privilege to build relationships with the students while acting as a mentor and advisor, all while imparting knowledge. More so, assisting students in cultivating, acquire knowledge, and develop their interests and passions is a constant drive. Although I may not ignite passion in all students, the two-way journey of teaching and learning from my students continually fuels my desire to be a part of academia.

In an online environment, communication takes on a new and more meaningful role, being mindful that written communication presents different barriers than oral communication. I want to promote a safe learning environment for students to freely engage with the professor and their peers, discussing thoughts, ideas, and practical real-world experiences. Providing students with timely and substantive feedback, progress (as a class and individually) for assignments and discussion boards, as well as clearly outlining expectations engages students, and promotes a thriving learning environment. Through practical real-world examples, I encourage my students to take an innovative approach to learning, as unconventional thinking promotes advanced analytical and interpretative learning and discussions. These skills are the backbone of advancing science, but also promote academic and personal growth within the student. These theoretical components are achieved through communication, ample feedback, and empowerment of the student. The ultimate goal is to empower the student to take control of their academic careers, encouraging a sense of self-responsibility for their learning outcomes and ultimate success. I believe in instructor involvement and meeting the online students' needs significantly impacts student success, as online learning is not a self-study process; theories and skills are nurtured through proper instruction and communication.

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

Nurture a sense of camaraderie between the students and myself to create a more effective learning environment, increasing confidence within the student, ultimately engaging the student at a deeper level.

Personally invest in the student, challenging them beyond the assignments. Making the personal connection through routine conversations and reminders about upcoming events and course materials to further ensure student success.
Create a challenging, yet obtainable work environment. Understanding that the class possesses individuals with various learning styles, thus approaching and the material in different ways to increase attentiveness and retention.

All students are equal. I ensure that each student is given the same opportunities in and outside of the classroom. No student is prioritized over another regardless of performance, each student is encouraged.

Humanizing myself in the classroom is important, incorporating real world experiences, advise, as well as humor to assist in making the content relatable.

Integrity and sticking to my word allows students to know what to expect from me, as well as not feel let down or disappointed. Adhering to my word increases the rewards of learning, as all efforts are acknowledged.

Flexibility, understanding that the lesson plans for the day may need to be altered due to additional questions about certain material.

Knowing I am a work in progress, and there is always something I can improve upon, even as a professor. Students have helped and will continue to shape and form me into a better professor.

EDUCATION

**Ph.D. – Experimental/Research and Evaluation Psychology**
Walden University, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Dissertation: The Relationship between Male Parental Investment and Interbirth Intervals in Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*)

**M.S. – General Psychology**
Walden University, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Concentrations: Psychology, Research Methodologies, and Statistics
Thesis: Uncovering Learning Preferences in Dolphins

**B.A. – Clinical Psychology**
San Francisco State University, San Francisco, California

RELEVANT ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

**Senior Doctoral Adjunct Dissertation Chair**
Grand Canyon University, College of Doctoral Studies
2018 – Present
Responsible for successfully guiding doctoral learners through the dissertation milestones to a doctoral degree completion, demonstrating expertise in research methodology, design and alignment, dissertation processes, and scholarly research standards. Display strong analytical, coaching and teaching skills, as well as actively and effectively engage with doctoral learners, dissertation committee members, staff and administration.

**Lecturer**
University of Miami, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science
2016 – Present
Designed an innovated research methods course and curriculum, including lectures and supplemental materials for graduate students. Acted as thesis and dissertation committee member and co-principle investigator for dozens of projects focusing on behavior, acoustics, cognition, management, medical,
education, conservation, and welfare from project inception through publication. Highly invested on-site academic advisor and mentor during the thesis data collection and writing.

Courses Taught:
Marine Mammal Research Techniques: Marine Biology and Ecology (MBE 532/632)
This course summarizes and describes the scientific investigation of marine mammal behavior, cognition, acoustics, anatomy and physiology, and clinical care, including theory and practical applications. The goal of this course is to provide an overview of the field of marine mammal research (historic, current, and future), hands-on training in applied research skills relevant to the field of marine mammalogy, as well as an understanding of the biological and ecological significance of captive and wild research and contributions to management and conservation. Students will also be trained in: conducting observations, developing question-driven research projects, applying sampling methodologies and tools, the use of research instrumentation and software, basic statistical analysis relevant to a variety of marine mammal fields, and science communication (oral, visual, and written).

Adjunct Graduate Level 2 Professor/Thesis and Dissertation Advisor
University of Southern Mississippi
Recruited to act as Masters thesis and doctoral dissertation content expert (research methods: quantitative and qualitative) for students focused in various disciplines of marine mammal science. Responsible for curriculum development 2 5-day intensive experiential learning classes for undergraduate and graduate students. Graduate advisor to multiple students during the transition of leadership within the Department of Psychology.

Courses Taught:
General Psychology (PSY 110H)
Research and Evaluation
Animal Behavior
Communication

The weeklong courses provide students with a thorough background in animal research, including wild and captive work, and the discoveries and limitations therein. Additionally, it enable students to describe and apply the scientific method within the context of marine mammal research, including descriptive and inferential statistics. With the goal of fostering critical thinking skills and an understanding of experimental and non-experimental methods, including the ability to interpret and critique sampling design and statistical analysis. Also, allow students to develop their science communication skills, including but not limited to writing a scientific manuscript, creating a poster, hosting an oral presentation, and communicating science to the general public (e.g. educational briefings, blogs, and social media).

Graduate and Undergraduate Guest Lecture
University of Miami, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science
Invited to develop and teach various courses several times each fall and spring semester for Biology of Marine Mammals (MBF 504), Survey of Marine Mammals (MSC 350), Conservation and Management of Marine Mammals (MAF 570) and Division of Marine Affairs and Policy, Marine Mammal Science & Marine Conservation (MPS). Courses content was centered on research design and techniques (qualitative and quantitative) for various disciplines (e.g., behavior, cognition, acoustics, medical, management).

Courses Taught:
Marine Mammal Research and Evaluation: Behavior
The focus of this course is on empirical and scientific research methods (quantitative and qualitative) of behavior. Students employ rigorous procedures throughout the research process to gain an understanding into the relationships the animal has with their physical environment and other organisms. The course is meant to highlight how behavior links the organism to its environment, reveals biological adaptations, and depicts survival. Ultimately, the purpose of the course is to understand the causes, functions, development and evolution of behavior, while being mindful of internal and external factors that influence behavior, and adhering to the scientific process.

Marine Mammal Behavior: Ethogram
The course provides students with an experiential learning opportunity to learn about the function of a behavioral ethogram. Students get extensive training on the formulation, function and purpose of behavioral ethograms. Using a catalog of behavioral events, students will examine contextual events using scan sampling and focal follow techniques to document observed behavior. Since behavior is naturally a continuous flow from one event or state to another, the goal of the course is the teach students that focusing on categories allows researchers to make measurements and comparisons.

Marine Mammal Behavior: An Assessment of Parental Investment/Roles
The objective of this course is to examine parental roles within the animal kingdom, learning how to empirically document interactions among offspring and other conspecifics. The course examines accepted theories regarding parental (maternal and paternal care) across many mammalian species, specifically if observed interactions are purposeful or fortuitous.

Marine Mammal Research and Evaluation: Cognition
Students gain a theoretical and working knowledge of the applied field of marine mammal cognition, focusing on topics such as learning, communication, memory, concept formation, perceptual abilities, and vocal learning. The daily lives of wild marine mammals require the utilization of complex cognitive skills, but fine scale analyses of these abilities are scarce. Students take an active role in cognition based projects to gain an better understanding of the behavioral and cognitive abilities of marine mammals, specifically dolphins and sea lions. Experimental learning exercises and observation sessions are accompanied by detailed lectures centered on cognition.

An Investigation of Sound and Acoustics with Marine Mammals
This research course combines theoretical instruction with experiential learning exercises to give students a better understanding of marine mammal bioacoustic technologies and methods. Discussions include questions centered on communication versus language, as well as the purpose of marine mammal vocalizations: learned responses (survival) or cognition based responses (aware/deliberate). The goal is to expose students to the bioacoustic field, including an introduction to the physics of underwater sound, marine mammal acoustics, and hands on training in the use of relevant instrumentation and sound analysis software to detect, review, and process acoustic data.

Making Waves Speaker Series
Invited guest lecture to speak about marine mammal behavior, cognition, acoustics and conservation research to the invited public. The purpose of this community event is to educate the public, all while inspiring environmental stewardship, conservation, and a passion for empirical investigation.

Guest Lecturer: Florida Atlantic University
Conservation Biology (BSC 6936)
Department of Biological Sciences
Lecture: Marine Mammal Behavior: An Assessment of Parental Investment/Roles

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE
Assistant Director of Research, Scientific Committee Member, Supervisor: Dolphins Plus
2005 – Present
One of three research team members that conceptualizes and implements new empirical investigations for the facility staff, as well as incoming visiting graduate students. Serve on the scientific committee since its inception. Supervisor for all ongoing marine mammal empirical investigations, responsible for approving and coordinate all daily specifics (e.g., data collection). On-site mentor and academic advisor for students (undergraduate, graduate) thesis projects to fulfill their degree requirements. Senior educator, responsible for developing comprehensive curricula (lectures and supplemental materials) and leading intensive field and lab excursions for visiting universities school groups, individual programs, continuing education, and specialized groups. Created several different revenue generating educational programs, that focus on research, education, and animal management. Active participant in community outreach programs, including but not limited to lecturing at local schools (K – 12) several times yearly, judging science fairs, as well as hosting individual students at the facility.

Assistant Director of Research: Dolphins Plus Marine Mammal Responder 2014 – Present

Serve as one of the Scientific Committee members since its inception. Act as on-site research supervisor responsible for conceptualizing innovative projects and execution of various non-invasive quantitative investigations. Coordinate and oversee all visiting researchers and graduate students to ensure high ethical standards of research are upheld during the research process.

Senior Animal Care Staff, Supervisor: Dolphins Plus Oceanside | Bayside 2001 – Present

Supervisor for animal care and on-site research staff, engage and teach students (undergraduate, graduate) local community and the public on various topics. Program development of Marine Biologist and Trainer for a Day programs, manage daily guest and staff operations, Internship Supervisor (Research, Animal Care), Make-a-Wish on-site coordinator.


Assisted in designing non-invasive behavioral ethograms and activity budgets to manage the care and welfare of stranded animals. Active stranding participant and responder with various marine mammal species; handling, transports, and daily care needs. Versed in animal handling and triage care (e.g., tube feeding, support care, husbandry and behavioral management).

EDITORIAL AND REVIEWING RESPONSIBILITIES

Zoo Biology 2018 – Present
Biology Letters 2018 – Present
Behavioral Processes (consulting reviewer) 2016 – Present
Aquatic Mammals (consulting reviewer) 2015 – Present
Journal of Zoo and Aquarium Research (consulting reviewer) 2015 – Present
Animal Behavior and Cognition (editorial board/reviewer)/Editorial Assistant 2013 – Present
International Journal of Comparative Psychology (guest editor/consulting reviewer) 2010 – Present

PUBLICATIONS


Cooper, N. J., Borger-Turner, J. L., Eskelinen, H. C., & Cooper, A. G. (in prep). Training transformation: overhauling the training protocol of two marine mammal facilities in the Florida Keys. Aquatic Mammals,


Eskelinen, H. C., Jones, B. L., & Kuczaj, S.A. (in review). The ontogeny of whistle production in infant Atlantic bottlenose dolphins (Tursiops truncatus). Aquatic Mammals,


PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS


Frick, E. E., Eskelinen, H. C., & Kuczaj, S. A. II (2016, November). Establishing a link between personality and social rank for a group of bottlenose dolphins (Tursiops truncatus). Formal presentation at the 57th Psychonomic Society meeting, Boston, Massachusetts.


Jones, B. L., Eskelinen, H. C., & Kuczaj, S. A. II (2015, December). Bubblestream whistle production, quality, and parameter development in infant Atlantic bottlenose dolphins (Tursiops truncatus) during the first thirty days.


Gotta go, mom’s calling: Dolphin mothers use acoustic signals to call their claves. Poster session presented at the Society for Marine Mammalogy, Quebec, Canada.

GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE THESIS CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBER

Rodney Dennis (Defending 2020: Graduate). Women on top management teams: Overcoming the class ceiling and other barriers through progressive diversity strategies. Grand Canyon University Ph.D. Program, Psychology

Lynette Gross (Defending 2020: Graduate). Language Acquisition in a diverse classroom. Grand Canyon University Ph.D. Program, Psychology

Jennifer Moore (Defending 2020: Graduate). Contributions to longevity of weight restoration after treatment for those who suffer from anorexia nervosa. Grand Canyon University Ph.D. Program, Psychology

Jacqueline Rhodes (Defending 2020: Graduate). An exploration of how study abroad sojourners perceive cultural intelligence. Grand Canyon University Ph.D. Program, Psychology

Shea Painter (Defending 2020: Graduate). Mindful running. Grand Canyon University Ph.D. Program, Psychology

Madison Hahn. (Defending 2019: Graduate). Cetacean communication during the presence and absence of vessel traffic. RSMAS MPS Program, Marine Mammal Science

Jade Parson (Defending 2019: Graduate). Tandem-create in bottlenose dolphins (Tursiops truncatus). M.S., Eastern Kentucky University

Joclyn Bosquez (Defending 2018: Graduate). Whistle communication pre, during and post parturition. RSMAS MPS Program, Marine Mammal Science

Ashley Scrader (Defending 2018: Graduate). Social development of 16 Tursiops calves across the first year of life. RSMAS MPS Program, Marine Mammal Science

Keri Lauermann (Defending 2018: Graduate). The affects on hydration supplementation on hematology values. RSMAS MPS Program, Marine Mammal Science

Drew Martin (Defending 2018: Graduate). Histroical and spatial trends of manatee entanglements in Florida. RSMAS MPS Program, Marine Mammal Science

Anne Parker Kellam (Defending 2018: Graduate). Measuring public perception of Seal Rescue Ireland’s Rehabilitation Procedures. RSMAS MPS Program, Marine Mammal Science

Lindsey Johnson (Defending 2018: Graduate). Vocal response to novel stimuli as a function of time and stimulus apparatus. M.A., University of Southern Mississippi

Chelsea Nicole Shipp (Defending 2017: Graduate). Improving procedural efficacy and efficiency for marine mammal necropsy data collection. RSMAS MPS Program, Marine Mammal Science
Raven Spencer (Defending 2017: Graduate). Lateralization in Steller sea lion mother-pups dyads. **RSMAS MPS Program, Marine Mammal Science**

Rebecca Kraut (Defending 2017: Graduate). Identifying respiratory disease in Atlantic bottlenose dolphins through non-invasive respiratory behaviors. **RSMAS MPS Program, Marine Mammal Science**

Carley Rice (Defending 2017: Graduate). Impacts of education programming at Dolphins Plus on visitor knowledge, attitude and behavior. **M.A., James Madison University**

Allie Fowler (Defending 2017: Graduate). Calf initiated reunions among Atlantic bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncates*). **RSMAS MPS Program, Marine Mammal Science**

Beth Schumacher (Defending 2017: Graduate). Establishing relationships between bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncates*) courtship behaviors and blood chemistries. **RSMAS MPS Program, Marine Mammal Science**

Ashley Robins (Defended 2017: Graduate). Short term effects of summer camp on marine knowledge. **RSMAS MPS Program, Marine Mammal Science**

Elizabeth Goetzl (Defended 2017: Graduate). Assessing and maintaining the health of a captive bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) population through the establishment of independent veterinary care. **RSMAS MPS Program, Marine Mammal Science**

Erin Frick (Defended 2018: Graduate). What do dolphins mean when they open their mouths? **Ph.D., University of Southern Mississippi**

Melinda Tuley (Defended 2017: Graduate). Respiration development in bottlenose dolphin calves (*Tursiops truncatus*). **RSMAS MPS Program, Marine Mammal Science**

Molly Gugel (Defended 2016, Graduate). Evaluating a gross motor stereotypic behavior in a sub-adult Atlantic bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) in managed care. **RSMAS MPS Program, Marine Mammal Science**

Brittany Sapyta (Defended December 2016: Graduate). Vocalizations affiliated with familiar and unfamiliar introductions of bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*). **RSMAS MPS Program, Marine Mammal Science**

Kelly Patterson (Defended December 2016: Graduate). Validating Bottlenose Dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) Body Condition Score **RSMAS MPS Program, Marine Mammal Science**

Erin Frick (Defended June 2016: Graduate). Establishing a link between personality in a group of bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*). **M.A., University of Southern Mississippi**

Kelley Winship (Defended April 2016: Graduate). What Can Dolphins Learn From Watching Video? **Ph.D., University of Southern Mississippi**

Michelle Jones (Defended December 2015: Graduate). Comparative Analysis of Calf Signature Whistle Ontogeny in a Managed Care Population of *Tursiops truncatus* in Key Largo, Florida. **RSMAS MPS Program, Marine Mammal Science**

Samantha Tufano (Defended December 2014: Graduate). Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) Whistle Rates and Blood Cortisol Levels During Periods of Perceived Stress. **RSMAS MPS Program, Marine Mammal Science**

Brittany Jones (Defended 2014: Graduate). The ontogeny of whistle production in infant Atlantic bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) during the first thirty days of life. **M.A., University of Southern Mississippi**

Kelley Winship (Defended 2014: Graduate). Can dolphins cooperate to solve a novel task? **M.A., University of Southern Mississippi**

Christine Bradley (Defended 2013: Graduate). A novel approach to training phlebotomy procedures in Atlantic bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) to treat iron storage disease. **RSMAS MPS Program, Marine Mammal Science**

Cylia Civelek (Defended 2013: Graduate). Preliminary examination of manatee vocalizations (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*). **RSMAS MPS Program, Marine Mammal Science**

Isabella Clegg (Defended 2013: Graduate). Marine mammal welfare: An examination in the care and wellbeing of captive Atlantic bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*). **RSMAS MPS Program, Marine Mammal Science**

Nancy Cooper (Defended 2013: Graduate). Training transformation: overhauling the training protocol for two marine mammal facilities in the Florida Keys. **RSMAS MPS Program, Marine Mammal Science**

Alexandra Fine (Defended 2013: Undergraduate). Paternal and alloparental associations of two *Tursiops truncatus* calves post-parturition. **RSMAS Undergraduate MSC Honors Thesis**

Kate Lawrence (Defended 2012: Graduate). Quantifying the relationship between creative behavior in captive bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) and reinforcement history: Implications for the Premack Principle. **RSMAS MPS Program, Marine Mammal Science**

Melissa Lopes (Defended 2012: Graduate) vocalizations in response to a novel stimulus: Behavioral. **RSMAS MPS Program, Marine Mammal Science**

Kelley Winship (Defended 2012: Undergraduate). Exploring color vision in *Tursiops truncatus*. **RSMAS Undergraduate MSC Honors Thesis**

Shelby Loos (Defended 2011: Undergraduate). Comparing hematological diagnostic techniques and determining clinical pathology references intervals for Atlantic bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) at a semi-open ocean facility. **RSMAS Undergraduate MSC Honors Thesis**


**RECENT MEDIA APPEARANCES**

CNET
SCIENTIFIC AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS/CERTIFICATIONS

Alliance of Marine Mammals Parks and Aquariums
American Psychological Association
Animal Behavior Society
Comparative Cognition Society
International Marine Animal Trainers’ Association
PADI – Dive Master Certification
Psi Chi Honor Society
Society of Marine Mammalogy

HONORS AND AWARDS

Oceans 180 Research Video Contest 2nd Place 2016
1st Place Poster Presentation Comparative Cognition Society 2015
Psi Chi Honor Society 2005 – 2011
Editor’s Choice award IMATA 2010

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

Make a Wish Coordinator 2009 – Present
Custom design Wishes for children with various ailments at Dolphins Plus. Wishes include experiential learning activities and family involvement to ensure a grand impact on the guest’s life is made.

University of Miami Summer Scholars Educator 2012 – Present
Provide pro-bono educational courses for high school sophomores and juniors who are interested in pursuing academic passion by participating in unique, specialized programs.

Key Largo School and Plantation Key School Career Day Participant 2013 – Present
Public speaking event for grade school and middle school aged children about various career opportunities available to them. Give students first hand knowledge of potential career paths and how to achieve their goals.

HIGHLY COMPETENT SUBJECT AREAS

Computer Experience
Extensive Microsoft Office Experience (Word, Excel, Power Point)
SPSS
RAVEN
Audacity
iMovie

Learning Management System Experience
LoudCloud
Blackboard
eCollege

Subject Matter Expert
Research Design
Dissertation and Thesis Writing
Animal Behavior
Cognition
Acoustics
REFERENCES

Dr. Jill Richardson  
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Chair, MES Academic Committee  
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University of Southern Mississippi  
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Editor in Chief of the International Journal of Comparative Psychology  
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