

Jennifer L. McGee

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EDUCATION

- Doctor of Philosophy:** Veterinary Medical Sciences
University of Florida
College of Veterinary Medicine-Aquatic Animal Health Program
Gainesville, Florida, USA
Expected Date of Graduation: Dec 2011
- Masters of Science:** Marine Mammal Science
University of Wales, Bangor
Gwynedd, Wales, UK
Date of Graduation: July 2005
Thesis Title: "Amazon River Dolphins: Acoustic Characteristics and Findings"
(66% course work and 33% field work/ 180 total credits)
- Bachelor of Science:** Psychology/Biology
Minor: Environmental Studies
Southampton College of Long Island University
Southampton, New York, USA
Date of Graduation: December 2002 (142 credits)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant, University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine, Aquatic Animal Health, Gainesville, FL; August 2007 to present

- Staff support for the Aquatic Animal Health program, including assistance with course planning/implementation and stranding coordination. Course planning/organization assistance includes experience with the following UF courses: Diseases of Warmwater Fish, Advanced Fish Medicine, SeaVetI, and SeaVet Clinical Training.
- Work in the Ophthalmic Histotechniques Lab and collaborate with various agencies and organizations for sample collection and data analysis
- Personally conduct as well as supervise undergraduate assistants in sample collection, Immunohistochemistry (IHC) techniques, and various biochemical techniques for sample analysis
- Conduct research on circulating and secreted antibodies in Sirenians and Proboscideans including protein purification, antibody development, IHC, and quantification assay development
- Assist with manatee and dolphin health assessments throughout the Southeast United States and Central America

Manatee Protection Program Associate and Marine Mammal Stranding Team Coordinator, Volusia County Environmental Management, Deland, FL.; February 2006 to 2009 (Associate and Team), Coordinator (Aug07)

- Coordinated programs involved with Volusia County's Manatee Protection Program including Manatee Watch, Bilge Sock Distribution, Clean Boater and Clean Marina Program, Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program, and Sediment Toxicology Study
- Assisted with dock permitting and development of education materials for Florida schools, coordinated program volunteers and associated trainings, and edited the county's Environet newsletter
- FWC certified as a marine mammal observer and supervisor for channel dredging project and developed manatee observation training protocol which included advanced Manatee Watch protocols to coordinate with USGS Sirenia Project Manatee Individual Photo-Identification System (MIPS)
- Responsible for maintenance of databases and coordination/training of volunteers and/or staff for specific projects related to Manatee Watch
- Responsible for working directly with the Program Manager and Director in leading and advancing Volusia County's Marine Mammal Stranding Team
- Responsible for complete data entry, database management, supplies inventory, biological sample archive, and chain of custody management within the county
- Responsible for the examination, data collection, necropsy, tissue sampling, and disposal of cetacean carcasses according to protocol of Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute. Assisted with manatee stranding response, rescue, carcass salvage, and transport at the instruction of FWC.
- State permitted Washback Watcher volunteer as part of the County's Sea Turtle Habitat Conservation Program
- Assisted with various other county programs including river and coastal cleanups, set-up of a new Environmental Learning Center, water-quality testing, dune and coastal restoration, ECHO grant reviews, and Cool Cities Campaign
- Actively participate in various manatee and dolphin captures throughout Florida for Health and Risk Assessments Projects and post rehabilitation release monitoring. Trained for boat handling, tracking, photo-ID, animal handling, sample collection, and medical assistance.
- Coordinated the necessary information for the county to request a Letter of Authorization to conduct Manatee verifications and rescues. Official designee under Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute.

Animal Trainer/Biologist and Educator, Moody Gardens Aquarium, Galveston, TX; January 2003 – August 2003

- Efficiently cared for Northern fur seals, Harbor seals, King penguins, and Chinstrap penguins
- Responsible for public education as well as animal husbandry and maintenance of exhibits which included routine cold water SCUBA dives with the animals
- Participated in daily training programs with seals and enrichment of all animals
- Assisted in rearing of penguin chicks

BBC Consultant, Bristol, England and Amazonia, Brazil; 2004

- Recorded and filtered Amazon river dolphin vocalizations for use in 'Planet Earth' series
- Assisted in the preparation of filming platforms in Brazil

Waitress and Cashier, Candy Kitchen, Bridgehampton, NY; September 2000-2002

Brand Representative, Abercrombie and Fitch, NY; August, 1999-2001

FIELD EXPERIENCE

Sarasota Dolphin Research Program Participant, Chicago Zoological Society and Mote Marine Laboratory, Sarasota, Florida; 2010

- Worked with a team of veterinarians, biologists, toxicologists and health researchers to conduct comprehensive health evaluations of a resident population of bottlenose dolphins
- Assisted with tracking, dolphin capture, transport, handling and release, sample collection, respiration monitoring, net handling and other field related tasks as presented
- Worked with veterinarians to coordinate necessary field equipment and supplies

Georgia Bottlenose Dolphin Health Assessment Participant, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Brunswick, GA; 2009-present

- Work with a team of veterinarians, biologists, toxicologists and health researchers to conduct comprehensive health evaluations of a resident population of bottlenose dolphins
- Assist with tracking, dolphin capture, transport, handling and release, sample collection, respiration monitoring, net handling and other field related tasks as presented
- Work with veterinarians to coordinate necessary field equipment and supplies
- Collected samples for investigations of circulating and secreted antibody levels

Sea to Shore Alliance Field Participant, Belize; 2009-present

- Actively participate in manatee captures for Health and Risk Assessments Projects. Trained for boat handling, tracking, photo-ID, net set, animal handling and transport, blood draw, heart and respiration monitoring, pit tagging, sample collection (including biopsy), and morphometrics.
- Assist in training new participants in capture and sample collection techniques.

Wildlife Trust Field Participant, Belize; 2008

- Actively participate in manatee captures for Health and Risk Assessments Projects. Trained for boat handling, tracking, photo-ID, net set, animal handling and transport, blood draw, heart and respiration monitoring, pit tagging, sample collection (including biopsy), and morphometrics.
- Assist in training new participants in capture and sample collection techniques.

Sirenia Project Volunteer, Florida Integrated Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey, Gainesville, FL; August 2007-present

- Actively participate in various manatee captures throughout Florida for Health and Risk Assessments Projects. Trained for boat handling, tracking, photo-ID, net set, animal handling and transport, blood draw, heart and respiration monitoring, pit tagging, sample collection (including biopsy), and morphometrics.
- Assist in training new participants in capture and sample collection techniques.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Volunteer, Florida; August 2007 to present

- Assist with marine animal stranding response, rescue, relocation, health assessment, and tagging as well as large whale disentanglement
- Completed FWC/USCG aerial safety training for marine mammal aerial surveys

Sea Turtle Nest Monitor, Volusia Flagler Sea Turtle Patrol, Volusia County, Florida; May 2006-2008

- Responsible for daily beach monitoring, reporting, and data collection related to sea turtle nesting activity

- Efficiently marked and flagged sea turtle nests for clutch protection. Responsible for nest relocations if circumstances warrant relocation.
- Responsible for excavation of nests after 1st emergence or allotted pre-set time frame to determine nest fate and assisted hatchlings left behind in collapsed air chamber

Dolphin Health and Risk Assessment Participant, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute (HBOI) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Indian River Lagoon, FL; 2006-present

- Work with a team of veterinarians, biologists, toxicologists, epidemiologist, immunologists, and health researchers to conduct comprehensive health evaluations of a bottlenose dolphins in the Indian River Lagoon system
- Assist with tracking, dolphin capture, transport, handling and release, net handling and other field related tasks as presented

Humpback Whale Research Assistant, The Oceania Project, Hervey Bay, Qld., Australia; August-October 2005

- Group V Humpback Whale (HBW) monitoring and sampling via digital photo-ID, behavioral logs, and genetic analysis to investigate ecological significance of Hervey Bay for HBWs and genetic relatedness of the population
- Maritime experience and handling of 13m catamaran for marine mammal research in partial fulfillment of requirements for advanced maritime certification and licensing
- Chlorophyll-A collection, handling, and storage for water quality analysis
- Daily environmental surveys for database
- Collection of Humpback Whale sloughed skin, handling, and storage for genetic and histological analysis
- Humpback Whale and marine life education for eco-volunteers
- Expedition preparation and maintenance, including equipment and research vessel maintenance and operation
- Daily collection and entry of Humpback Whale data sets and daily lookout for and tracking of Humpback Whales (and various marine life)
- Responsible for passenger safety, including first aid administration, as well as passenger comfort, supervision, and rostering of daily duties

Graduate Research Assistant Intern, Texas A&M Marine Mammal Research Program, Behavioral Ecology Lab, Galveston, TX; January 2003 - August 2003

- Participated in field research for individual cetacean ID, behavioral logs, and anthropogenic studies
- Efficient in boat maintenance, repair, trailoring and handling as well as equipment handling and maintenance
- Conducted background research for river dolphin encyclopedia articles
- Matched photographs of bottlenose dolphin dorsal fins, using both digital and black and white photography, via FINSCAN computerized photo-ID database

Sustainable Systems, Australian East Coast; February - May 2001

- Studied Australian environmental issues, both terrestrial and marine
- Trained in alternative agriculture practices including permaculture and biodynamic farming
- Participated in rainforest restoration and sustainable development planning

Tropical Field Biology, The Amazonian Rain Forest, Brazil; January 2001

- Studied the terrestrial, arboreal, and riverine habitats of the Amazon rainforests
- Observed the interactions between the Cabocolos people and their natural habitat
- Investigated the ways plants interacted with their biotic and abiotic environment
- Photographed plants and animals for video documentary and digital logs
- Documented how medicinal plants are cultivated, prepared, and used by the Amazonian people
- Captured and released small mammals, avians, amphibians, reptiles, and insects for University related or collaborative research projects
- Study of soil nutrient concentrations from various sites throughout the Amazon

Tropical Marine Biology, The Kingdom of Tonga and Niue; January 2000

- Studied marine flora and fauna in the tropical marine habitats of the South Pacific
- Researched pacific tide pool ecosystems
- Performed various deep sea, wreck, and night dives while assisting with various University related research projects and in partial fulfillment of advanced diving certification
- Underwater behavioral monitoring of spinner dolphin pods in Niue

Field Researcher Program, Sea World of Orlando, FL and Cape Canaveral National Seashore; July 1998

- Provided record keeping of gopher tortoise sightings and status
- Involved in nightly monitoring of Sea Turtles, recorded eggs laid, species of turtle, protected egg sight, counted number of hatchlings, carefully monitored mothers and hatchlings movement towards the water
- In-situ observations of manatee health and behavior

EXPERIENCIAL EDUCATION

Sea to Shore Alliance Student Representative, Florida; 2009 - present

- Highlight and promote global student involvement and assist with fundraising
- Provide resources/venues for students to pursue further career training, international collaborations/contacts, funding opportunities, and to increase awareness of global conservation issues

WeBelize, Roots and Shoots Volunteer, Jane Goodall Institute, Belize, Central America; 2009 - present

- Volunteer in various capacities that include work related to animal welfare, cleanups, disaster relief, domestic animals, elderly services, energy, global issues and cultural exchange, HIV/AIDS and disease prevention, habitat restoration and tree planting, Literacy/Tutoring/Mentoring, nature appreciation, peace and conflict resolution, people with disabilities, pollution, poverty, hunger and homelessness, Reduce/Reuse/Recycle education and programs, water management, and wildlife and endangered species

Women in Science Campaign Spokesperson, SeaWorld/Busch Gardens Adventure Camps; 2009

- Serve as a spokesperson for a campaign that targets young women who are interested in a career with animals
- Discuss my job/research, the various jobs available working with animals, what motivates me in my career, and marine mammal conservation

- Share my experiences as a past SeaWorld/Busch Gardens camper
- Provide advice and tips for young women on how to explore and pursue their career goals

Board of Directors, Tripp Management Specialists Home Owners Association, Shellrock Villas, Gainesville, FL; 2009 - present

- Manage fees paid by home owners to finance community operations as well as maintain all external structures and common spaces
- Administer rules and regulations of the community and make amendments as they become necessary

Equine Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Volunteer, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL; January 2008 - 2009

- Actively assist with 24 support and monitoring of horses admitted to the intensive care unit with an emphasis on foals
- Provide on-call support for critical cases
- Work with technicians, residents, lead veterinarians, and students within the unit to most efficiently care for and support equine patients

Cetacean Rehabilitator and Marine Educator, Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network, Galveston, TX; January 2003 – August 2003

- 24 hour monitoring of rescued cetaceans including behavioral logs and standby emergency response
- Conducted beach surveys, recovery, and transport of stranded cetaceans
- Assisted in numerous necropsies and collection of samples for a variety of large and small cetaceans
- Conducted marine ecosystem education programs at a variety of venues

Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Rehabilitator, The Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research and Preservation, Long Island, NY; Fall 2001 – Spring 2002

- Rescued and transported stranded cetaceans, phocids, and sea turtles
- Assisted in tube feedings, medical exams, and treatments for sea turtles and 4 species of phocids
- Efficiently fed up to 44 seals and 7 sea turtles as well as cleaned all enclosures daily, average 125 seals per season
- Assisted in the construction of new rehabilitation enclosures
- Performed detailed necropsies on seals, cetaceans, and sea turtles, including collection of biomedical samples

Animal Trainer Assistant and Educator, DolphinQuest, Oahu, HI; May- August 2001

- Assisted trainers in all aspects of marine mammal training and husbandry
- Setup and executed a hands on children's education program
- Responsible for diet preparation, medical and behavioral logs, and feeding of dolphins, fish, sea turtles, and stingrays as well as enrichment
- Shadowed staff and visiting veterinarians and assisted with monthly medical exams and biomedical analysis

Animal Handler for National Television, Late Night with Conan O'Brien; The Maury Povich Show; 2000

- Assistant animal handler both on stage and back stage

- Responsible for the training of specific animals prior to television appearance

Volunteer Education Intern, The Buffalo Zoo, NY; June 2000-September 2000

- Over 525 hours spent volunteering in the education department
- Animal care specialist, cleaning of enclosures and dietary preparation
- Primary caretaker of new education animals brought in and for animal introductions
- Zoo camp assistant coordinator and counselor
- Responsible for husbandry related activities with education animals

Wildlife Rehabilitator, HawkCreek Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, East Aurora, New York; June 1997-2002

- Assisted in the admittance, maintenance, cleaning, first aid, handling, diet preparation for and release of wildlife during and after rehabilitation and assisted in facility construction
- Involved in organizing annual open house and fundraiser
- Successfully performed weekly educational programs with the animals both for public and for private groups. This involved animal safety while in transit and handling of various animals during programs including birds of prey, river otters, small cats, beavers, opossums, fox, and porcupines

Career Development in Animal Care Program, Sea World of San Antonio, TX; April 1998 and April 1999

- Observed veterinary procedures with the supervision of Sea World staff and veterinarian
- Actively worked in the aviculture, orca whale, dolphin, beluga whale, sharks and rays, aquarium, penguin, sea lion, walrus and otter departments
- Assisted with all aspects of animal husbandry and successfully passed a pre and post written examination

Terratrekkers Program, Busch Gardens, Tampa Bay, FL.; July 1998 and July of 1999

- Assisted in research and record keeping
- Involved in intra and inter species animal introductions
- Provided husbandry assistance for large variety of animals

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

- “Morphological Description of the Mammary Gland and Teat in Two Historically Related Species *Trichechus manatus* and *Elephas maximus*” Proceedings for the International Association of Aquatic Animal Medicine Conference, 2010, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
- “Ocular Adaptations to an Aquatic Environment; A Manatee Model” University of Florida Marine Biology Symposium, 2010, St. Augustine, Florida
- “Immunoglobulin Composition in Milk of Manatees and Elephants” Proceedings for the Society for Marine Mammalogy Biennial Conference, 2009, Québec, Canada
- “Description of a Uniquely Devised Extrinsic Ocular Musculature in the Eye of the Florida Manatee” Proceedings for the International Association of Aquatic Animal Medicine Conference, 2009, San Antonio, Texas, USA
- “Tear Film Analysis and Localization of Immunoglobulin G within the Tear Producing Apparatuses in the Florida Manatee, *Trichechus manatus latirostris*” Proceedings for the International Association of Aquatic Animal Medicine Conference, 2009, San Antonio, Texas, USA

- “Presence of Red Tide in the Florida Manatee by Immunohistochemical Localization of *Karenia brevis*” Proceedings for the International Association of Aquatic Animal Medicine Conference, 2008, Rome, Italy
- “Morphological and Histochemical Description of Conjunctiva-Associated Lymphoid Tissue (CALT) in the Florida Manatee, *Trichechus manatus latirostris*” Proceedings for the International Association of Aquatic Animal Medicine Conference, 2008, Rome, Italy
- “Morphological Description of Conjunctiva-Associated Lymphoid Tissue (CALT) in the Florida Manatee, *Trichechus manatus latirostris*” Proceedings for the Florida Marine Mammal Health Conference, 2008, St. Augustine, Florida, USA
- “Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program, An Internationally Applicable Program,” Abstract Accepted for the Society of Conservation Biology Annual Conference, 2007, Port Elizabeth, South Africa
- “Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program: A Global Initiative,” Abstract Accepted for the Society for Marine Mammalogy Biennial Conference, 2007, Capetown, South Africa
- “Introduction to Dolphin and Manatee Anatomy, Basic Necropsy Procedures and Stranding Response,” Training Workshop for the Volusia County Marine Mammal Stranding Team, 2006/2007 Deland, Florida, USA
- “Amazon River Dolphins” Lecture Presented weekly for The Oceania Project 2005 Expedition, August – October; Hervey Bay, Qld., Australia
- “The Potential Use of Acoustic Data for Long Term Behavioral Monitoring of Amazon River Dolphins” Proceedings for the Animal Behavior Management Alliance Conference, 2005, Houston, Texas, USA
- “Sound Velocity in Spermaceti Oil from Different Locations in the Head of a Sperm Whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*)” Proceedings for the European Cetacean Society Conference, 2004, Kolmården, Sweden

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, 2009-present
- Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Environmental Education Committee Chair
2009-present
- African Wildlife Foundation, 2008-2009
- 8th District of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Global Environment and
Conservation Committee Chair, 2007-2009
- Sirenian International, 2007-present
- University of Florida Veterinary Graduate Student Association Officer (VGSA) 2007-present
- International Association of Aquatic Animal Medicine (IAAAM), 2006-present
- Surfrider Foundation International, 2006-present
- Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) - Marine Section member and Freshwater Working Group,
2005-present
- Animal Behavior Management Alliance (ABMA) - Education and Membership Committee, 2004-2008
- Australasian Regional Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria (ARAZPA), 2003-2005
- European Cetacean Society (ECS), 2002-2005
- Flora and Fauna International (FFI), 2002-2005
- Society for Marine Mammalogy (SMM), 2000-present, Co-coordinator of the Florida Student Chapter,
2007-present
- International Marine Animal Trainers Association (IMATA), 2000-2009
- American Zoological and Aquarium Association (AZA), 2000-present

GRANTS

Society for Marine Mammalogy Student Travel Grant
University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine Consolidated Faculty Research Development Grant, Co-PI, "Purification and Identification of Secretary Immunoglobulin A (sIgA) from the West Indian Manatee and the Development of a Monoclonal Antibody"
Veterinary Graduate Student Association Travel Grant, University of Florida, 2009, 2010
Graduate Student Association Travel Grant, University of Florida, 2009, 2010
International Association of Aquatic Animal Medicine (IAAAM) Student Scholarship

AWARDS/ HONORS

Distinguished Alumna Award-Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart
University of Florida Graduate Assistantship
Long Island University Co/op Student of the Year
Buffalo Zoo Outstanding Volunteer
Long Island University Honors Scholarship

CERTIFICATIONS

MC252 Oil Spill Response: Wildlife Recovery and Rehabilitation Paraprofessionals
US Coast Guard Certified for Small Boat Handling (boats up to 19m)
CPR/AED and First Aid Certified
New York State Wildlife Rehabilitators License (1997-2003)
SCUBA certified Open Water (NAUI)
Level 1 (trained) Level 2 (qualifying) Level 3 (invited) - Atlantic Large Whale Disentanglement Network (ALWDN)
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) State Certified Manatee Observer

SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Familiar with Microsoft Programs, skilled in public relations, SCUBA certified, proficient in animal care and handling, demonstrated ability to lead and organize activities. Attended Canisius College and University at Buffalo Honors programs while in High School and was a research assistant to college professors. Experienced in histotechniques, protein chemistry, various molecular/biomedical techniques, Gram 50 Sound Analysis, ERDAS, MATLAB, GIS, Vortex9, and TPOD.exe. Proficient in boat handling, hydrophone use, and Photo-Identification (Sirenians, Humpback Whales, Small Cetaceans) including MIPS, FinScan, and Europhlukes. Experienced in Age Dynamics of Pinnipeds and Cetaceans and in Vet Tech duties (Wildlife, Marine Mammal, and Sea Turtle Rehabilitation). Proficient in Latin and Beginning Spanish and Brazilian Portuguese.

REFERENCES

Don Samuelson, PhD, MS, Major Advisor and Professor, University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine
SamuelsonD@vetmed.ufl.edu (352) 392-2226 ext. 5754

Robert K. Bonde, PhD, Senior Biologist, Sirenia Project, Florida Integrated Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey
rbonde@usgs.gov (352) 264-3555

Ramiro Isaza, DVM, MS Committee Member and Assistant Professor, University of Florida,
College of Veterinary Medicine

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Ruth Francis-Floyd, DVM, MS, DACZM Program Director of Aquatic Animal Health and
Professor, University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine

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Kelli McGee, JD (no relation), Director of Environmental Management, Volusia County,
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