

# MATTHEW S. LESLIE, PH.D.

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## **International Climate and Biodiversity Policy Fellow**

National Climate Adaptation Science Center

US Geological Survey

Reston, VA USA

## **Executive Branch Science and Technology Policy Fellow**

American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

## **EDUCATION:**

2016 **Ph.D. Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UCSD | Marine Biology**

Dissertation title: Population genomic structure & phylogeography of spotted & spinner dolphins. Advisor: Phillip A. Morin

2011 **M.S. Scripps Institution of Oceanography | Biological Oceanography**

Advisors: Phillip A. Morin, Eric I. Archer, and William F. Perrin

2002 **B.S. Oklahoma State University | Zoology & Wildlife Ecology & Mgmt**

Research Advisor: Ronald A. van den Bussche

## **PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS:**

2021 – Present **AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow & International Climate and Biodiversity Policy Fellow** | National Climate Adaptation Science Center | USGS

2021 – 2022 **Adjunct Professor** | Environmental Studies | Ursinus College

2020 – 2021 **Foreign Affairs Specialist** | Marine Mammal Protection Act Team  
Office of International Affairs and Sea Food Inspection | NOAA

2018 – 2021 **Visiting Assistant Professor** | Biology | Swarthmore College

2017 – 2018 **Secretary's Distinguished Postdoctoral Research Fellow**  
Smithsonian Institution Conservation Biology Institute - National  
Zoological Park. Hosts: Nicholas Pyenson & Jesús Maldonado

2016 – 2017 **G. Wayne Clough Postdoctoral Research Fellow**  
Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History.  
Hosts: Nicholas Pyenson & Jesús Maldonado

2016 (Summer) **Visiting Professor** | Scripps Institution of Oceanography - UCSD

2009 – 2016 **Ph.D. Student** | Scripps Institution of Oceanography - UCSD

2009 – 2016 **Researcher** | Southwest Fisheries Science Center  
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service

- 2007 – 2009 **Facility Manager** | Sackler Institute for Comparative Genomics  
American Museum of Natural History
- 2006 – 2007 **Program Manager** | Conservation Genetics Program  
American Museum of Natural History
- 2003 – 2006 **Field Research Manager** | Cetacean Research Madagascar  
Wildlife Conservation Society
- 2003 – 2006 **Laboratory Research Technician** | Conservation Genetics  
Wildlife Conservation Society
- 2002 – 2003 **NSF REU Intern** | Molecular Systematics  
American Museum of Natural History
- 2001 – 2002 **Field Research Technician** | Ouachita Black Bear Study  
Oklahoma State University/OK Dept. Wildlife Conservation
- 2000 – 2002 **Undergraduate Researcher** | Department of Zoology  
Oklahoma State University
- 1999 **Research Intern** | Byron Bay Humpback Whale Survey  
Government of New South Wales, Australia
- 1998 **Field Research Technician** | Greater Prairie Chicken Survey  
Sutton Avian Research Center - Tallgrass Prairie, Oklahoma

### **DETAILED TEACHING & MENTORING EXPERIENCE:**

#### **Ursinus College: Adjunct Professor & Instructor of Record**

Conserving Biological Diversity (SP22): Adapted from Conservation Biology, a course I offered in the Biology Department at Swarthmore, to focus on policy and management challenges and solutions.

Marine Mammal Conservation and Management (FA21): Adapted from a course offered in the Biology Department at Swarthmore to focus more on case studies of marine mammal specific policy and management challenges and solutions.

#### **Swarthmore College: Visiting Assistant Prof. & Instructor of Record**

Introductory Biology Scholar's Program (SP21): Oversaw all aspects of this 0.5 credit voluntary 'workshop style' course designed to provide additional support for URM and FLI students. Objective was to offer peer and instructor support for introductory biology course materials.

Introductory Biology (SP20 & SP21): Designed lectures, learning activities, and assessments for biodiversity and human dimensions modules for this introductory course.

Conservation Biology w lab (SP19 & FA20): Intermediate course providing an overview of the foundational concepts of biodiversity conservation. Students develop (i) an understanding of the scope and drivers of the extinction crisis, (ii) familiarity with the breadth of conservation solutions, and (iii) competency in tools of the field. Students complete case studies on conservation solutions and a hands-on rapid biodiversity assessment.

Marine Mammal Biology & Conservation w lab (FA18 & SP20): Intermediate course providing a tour-de-force of marine mammal diversity, anatomy, evolution, physiology, and threats. Includes modules on comparative anatomy, hypothesis testing using analyses in R, book clubs, and writing research review papers. I designed and implemented all lab activities and led trips to the Smithsonian and offshore of Cape May for mark-recapture simulations.

Evolution w lab (FA19): Intermediate course that connects how the genetic composition of populations changes in response to mutation, natural selection, gene flow, and genetic drift with a mechanistic understanding of how these aspects of evolution are studied. Provided perspective on deep time, human evolution, and history. Includes field sampling local plants to measure natural selection, pop gen and phylogenetics in R, NSF-style grant writing, phylogenetics skill-building, and scientific presentations.

### **SIO-UCSD: Visiting Assistant Prof. & Instructor of Record**

Marine Mammal Biology w lab (SM16): I designed and implemented all aspects of this intermediate class, including lectures, discussion periods, and field trips to the San Diego Natural History Museum and the NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center to explore laboratories and specimen-based learning.

### **SIO-UCSD: Teaching Assistant and Co-Lecturer**

Evolution & the History of Earth (FA14): I taught the evolution component of this introductory course for non-majors. I worked with The Center for Teaching Development at the UCSD to design lectures and develop peer instruction activities. I managed course records and LMS and designed assessments.

Marine Mammal Biology (SP14): I was awarded the SIO Teaching Excellence Award for this class. I developed weekly recitation activities for students, brought my research (and personal osteological collection) into class to teach cetacean evolution and comparative anatomy, conducted discussion periods, graded, mentored term paper writing, and designed assessment tools.

### **American Museum of Natural History**

FA-04 - AMNH-ASCEND Program for urban high school students (Instructor)

SP-04 - NSF Undergraduate Mentors in Environmental Biology (Instructor)

St. Francis & Medgar Evers Colleges

### **Oklahoma State University**

FA-01 - Collegiate Marching Percussion (TA)

### **TEACHING AWARDS**

2015 Graduate Student Teaching Excellence Award - Scripps Inst. of Oceanography

2014 Associate - Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching & Learning

## **INSTRUCTIONAL TRAINING**

2020 – Network of Conservation Educators & Practitioners Amer. Mus. of Natural History  
2020 – Sustainability in the Classroom – Swarthmore College Environmental Studies Prog.  
2014 – The College Classroom – UC San Diego Center for Teaching Development

## **RESEARCH MENTORING**

### **Swarthmore College:**

2020 – Zhijia Liu (Swarthmore College) – Independent Research  
2020 – Jiaxin Xu (Swarthmore College) – Independent Research  
2020 – Jenna Bowman (Swarthmore College) – Independent Research  
2019 – Jihye Yoon (Swarthmore College) – Senior Thesis  
2019 – Louis Kant (Swarthmore College) – Independent Research  
2019 – 20 Colin Perkins-Taylor (Swarthmore College) – Independent Research  
2019 – 20 Sophie Nasrallah (Swarthmore College) – Independent Research  
2018 – 18 Shelby Hoogland (Bryn Mwar College) – Senior Thesis  
2018 – 18 Yüying Rong (Haverford College) – Independent Research

### **Smithsonian Institution:**

2018 – 18 Proud Chanarat (Carleton College) – Smithsonian Summer Internship

### **Scripps Institution of Oceanography:**

Marine Biodiversity & Conservation Biology Master's Program:

2013 – 2014 E. Huntley Penniman, currently Media Specialist Rising Tide Conservation  
2012 – 2013 Dana Kocknowar, currently Senior Policy Advisor at NYC Mayor's Office  
2011 – 2012 Alexandra Mullen-Ley, currently Project Manager at FishWise  
2010 – 2011 Justin Garver, currently Advisor to San Diego City Council President  
2009 – 2010 Sarah McPherson, currently at US BOEM in Washington, D.C.

Environmental Systems undergraduates:

2011 – 2012 - Danielle Davila (UCSD) Undergraduate Thesis  
\*\*Won *Honorable Mention Award* at San Diego Science Fair\*\*

### **American Museum of Natural History:**

2007 – Greta Meyers (Columbia University) NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates  
2005 – 2006 - Debra Perez, High School Science Research Program

## **PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

32. Minton G, Van Bresse MF, Willson A, Collins T, Al Harthi S, Wilson MS, Baldwin R, **LESLIE MS**, Robbins J, Van Waerbeek K. In Press. Visual health assessment and evaluation of anthropogenic threats to Arabian Sea humpback whales in Oman. *Journal of Cetacean Research and Management*.

31. Corkeron P., Roman, J., Kershaw, F., **LESLIE MS.**, Kraus, S., and Sutaria, D. 2022. *Balaenoptera ricei* should be the Gulf of Mexico whale. *Marine Mammal Science*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/mms.12928>

30. Cove MV, ... **LESLIE MS**, Nasrallah SL\*, et al. 2021. SNAPSHOT USA 2019: the first coordinated national camera trap survey of the United States. *Ecology*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ecy.3353>
29. Andrews KR, Epstein B, **LESLIE MS**, Fiedler P, Morin PA, Hoelzel AR. 2021. Genomic signatures of divergent selection are associated with social behavior for spinner dolphin ecotypes. *Molecular Ecology*. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdfdirect/10.1111/mec.15865>
28. **LESLIE MS**, Perkins-Taylor CM\*, Durban JW, Moore MJ, Brahamonde P, Chiang G, Chanarat P\*, Miller CA, Apprill A. 2020. Body size data collected non-invasively from drone images indicate morphologically distinct Chilean blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus* Linnaeus 1758). *Endangered Species Research*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3354/esr01066>
27. Jackson JA, Kennedy A, Moore M, Andriolo A, Bamford C, Calderan S, Cheeseman T, Gittins G, Groch K, Kelly N, Leaper R, **LESLIE MS** et al. 2020. Whales return to the epicentre of whaling? Status of the southern right whale (*Eubalaena australis*) at South Georgia. *Endangered Species Research*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3354/esr01072>.
26. April A, Miller C, Van Cise AM, J Uren, **LESLIE MS**, Weber L, Baird R, Robins J, Landry S, Waring G. 2020. Marine mammal skin microbiomes are influenced by host phylogeny. *Royal Society Open Science*. <https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/pdf/10.1098/rsos.192046>
25. Carroll EL, Ott PH, McMillan LF, Vernazzani BG, Neveceralova P, Vermeulen E, Gaggiotti OE, Andriolo A, Baker CS, Bamford C, Best P, Cabrera E, Calderan S, Chirife A, Fewster RM, Flores PAC, Frasier T, Freitas TRO, Groch K, Hulva P, Kennedy A, Leaper R, **LESLIE MS**, Moore M, Oliveira L, Seger J, Stepien EN, Valenzuela LO, White B, Zerbini A, Jackson JA. 2020 [COVER]. Genetic diversity and connectivity of southern right whales (*Eubalaena australis*) found in the Chile-Peru wintering ground and South Georgia/Islas Georgias del Sur feeding ground. *Journal of Heredity*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jhered/esaa010>
24. **LESLIE MS**, Peredo CM, Pyenson ND. 2019. *Norrisanima miocaena*, a redescription and new generic name of a basal balaenopteroid whale (Mammalia, Cetacea) from the Miocene of California. *PeerJ* 7:e7629 <https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.7629>
23. **LESLIE MS**, Archer FI, and Morin PA. 2018. Mitogenomic differentiation in spinner (*Stenella longirostris*) and pantropical spotted dolphins (*S. attenuata*) from the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. *Marine Mammal Science*. DOI: 10.1111/mms.12545
22. **LESLIE MS** & Morin PA. 2018. Comparative phylogeography of two circumtropical dolphins, spinner (*Stenella longirostris*) and spotted dolphins (*Stenella attenuata*), based on restriction-site associated nuclear SNPs. *Royal Society Open Science* 2018 5 171615; DOI:10.1098/rsos.171615
21. Rosel PE, Taylor BL, Hancock-Hanser BL, Morin PA, Archer FI, Konopacki A, Lang AR, Mesnick SL, Pease VL, Perrin WF, Robertson KM, **LESLIE MS**, et al. 2017. A review of molecular genetic markers and analytical approaches that have been used for delimiting marine mammal subspecies and species. 2017 *Marine Mammal Science* 33(S1):56-75. DOI:10.1111/mms.12410

20. Martien KK, **LESLIE MS**, Morin PA, Archer FI, Hancock-Hanser BL, Rosel PE, *et al.* **2017**. Analytical approaches to subspecies delimitation with genetic data. *Marine Mammal Science* 33(S1):27-55 DOI:10.1111/mms.12409

\* Undergraduate researcher under my supervision

19. Taylor BL, Hancock-Hanser BL, Martien KK, Morin PA, Archer FI, Lang AR, **LESLIE MS**, Mesnick SL, Pease VL, Perrin WF, Robertson KM, *et al.* **2017**. Guidelines and quantitative standards to improve consistency in cetacean subspecies and species delimitation relying on molecular data. *Marine Mammal Science* 33(S1):132-155. DOI:10.1111/mms.12411

18. Rosel PE, Hancock-Hanser BL, Archer FI, Martien KK, Robertson KM, **LESLIE MS** *et al.* **2017**. Examining metrics and magnitudes of molecular genetic differentiation used to delimit cetacean subspecies based on mitochondrial DNA control region sequences. *Marine Mammal Science* 33(S1):76-100. DOI:10.1111/mms.12410

17. Rosenbaum HC, Mendez M, Kershaw F, Pomilla C, **LESLIE MS**, Findlay K, Best P, Collins T, *et al.* **2017**. Population structure of humpback whales throughout the Southern Hemisphere and the Arabian Sea. *Endangered Species Research* DOI:10.3354/ESR00822

16. **LESLIE MS** and Morin PA. **2016**. Using genome-wide SNPs to detect structure in high-diversity and low-divergence populations of severely impacted eastern tropical Pacific spinner (*Stenella longirostris*) and pantropical spotted dolphins (*S. attenuata*). *Frontiers in Marine Science* 3:253. DOI:10.3389/fmars.2016.00253

15. Pomilla C, Amaral AR, Collins T, Minton G, Findlay K, **LESLIE MS**, Ponnampala L, Baldwin R, Rosenbaum HC. **2014**. The world's most isolated and distinct whale population: Humpback whales of the Arabian Sea. *PLoS ONE* 9(12):e114162. DOI:10.1371/journal.pone.0114162

14. **LESLIE MS**. **2014**. The impact of phylogenetic nomenclature on the efficacy of the Endangered Species Act. *Conservation Biology* 29(1):69-77. DOI:10.1111/cobi.12375

13. Jackson JD, Steele J, Beerli P, Congdon BC, Olavarria C, **LESLIE MS**, Pomilla C, Rosenbaum HC, Baker CS. **2014**. Global diversity and oceanic divergence of humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*). *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* 281:1786. DOI:10.1098/rspb.2013.3222

12. Carvalho I, Ay Ling Loo J, Collins T, Barendse J, Pomilla C, **LESLIE MS**, P. Best, H. Rosenbaum. **2014**. Does temporal and spatial segregation explain the complex population structure of humpback whales on the coast of West Africa? *Journal of Marine Biology* 161(4):805-819. DOI:10.1007/s00227-013-2379-1

11. Kershaw F, **LESLIE MS**, Collins T, Mansur R, Rubaiyat M, Smith B, Minton G, Baldwin R, *et al.* **2013**. Population differentiation of two forms of Bryde's whales in the Indian and Pacific Oceans. *Journal of Heredity* 104(6):755-764. DOI:10.1093/jhered/est057

10. Archer FI, Morin PA, Hancock-Hanser BL, Robertson KM, **LESLIE MS**, Berube M, Panigada S, Taylor BL. **2013**. Mitogenomic phylogenetics of fin whales (*Balaenoptera physalus* spp.): genetic evidence for revision of subspecies. *PLoS ONE* 8(5):e63396. DOI:10.1371/journal.pone.0063396
9. Hancock-Hanser BJ, Frey A, **LESLIE MS**, Dutton P, Archer PI, Morin P. **2013**. Targeted multiplex next-generation sequencing: Advances in techniques of mitochondrial and nuclear sequencing for population genomics. *Molecular Ecology Resources* 13(2):254-68. DOI:10.1111/1755-0998.12059
8. Ersts PJ, Pomilla C, Kiszka J, Cerchio S, Rosenbaum HC, Vely M, Razafindrakoto Y, Loo JA, **LESLIE MS**, Avolio M. **2011**. Observations of individual humpback whales utilizing multiple migratory destinations in the south-western Indian Ocean. *African Journal of Marine Science* 33(2):333-338. DOI:10.2989/1814232X.2011.600436.
7. Minton G, Cerchio S, Collins T, Ersts P, Findlay KP, POMILLA C, Bennet D, Meyer MA, Razafindrakoto Y, Kotze PGH, Oosthuizen WH, **LESLIE MS**, et al. **2010**. A note on the comparison of humpback whale tail fluke catalogues from the Sultanate of Oman with Madagascar and the East African mainland. *Journal of Cetacean Research and Management* 11(1):65-68.
6. Rosenbaum HC, Pomilla C, Mendez M, **LESLIE MS**, Best PB, et al. **2009**. Population structure of humpback whales from their breeding grounds in the south Atlantic and Indian Oceans. *PLoS ONE* 4(10): e7318. DOI:10.1371/journal.pone.0007318.
5. Eaton MJ, Meyers GL, Kolokotronis SO, **LESLIE MS**, Martin AP, Amato G. **2009**. Barcoding bushmeat: molecular forensic identification of Central African and South American harvested vertebrates. *Conservation Genetics* 11(4):1389-1404. DOI:10.1007/s10592-009-9967-0
4. Mendez M, & **LESLIE MS**. **2009**. MitoCommunications: Cetacean mitogenomics. *Mitochondrial DNA* 20(2-3):31-32. DOI:10.1080/19401730902852976
3. Engel MH, Fagundes NJR, Rosenbaum HC, **LESLIE MS**, et al. **2008**. Mitochondrial DNA diversity and assessment of the likely feeding ground of the Southwestern Atlantic humpback whale breeding area. *Conservation Genetics* 9(5):1253-1262.
2. Kretzman M, Mentzer L, DiGiovanni R, **LESLIE MS**, Amato G. **2006**. Microsatellite diversity and fitness in stranded harp seals (*Phoca groenlandica*). *Journal of Heredity* 97(6):555-560.
1. **LESLIE MS**, Batibasaga A, Weber DS, Olsen D, and Rosenbaum HC. **2005**. First record of Blainville's beaked whale *Mesoplodon densirostris* in Fiji. *Pacific Conservation Biology* 11(4):28-30.

#### **PAPERS IN REVIEW**

1. Xu Jiabin\*, Zhijia Xiu\*, **LESLIE MS**. Comparative Analysis of the US and Japanese News Reports on Whaling Suggested Strategies to Improve Current Communication on Commercial Whaling in Japan. *IN REVIEW. Journal of International Wildlife Law and Policy*.

\* Undergraduate researcher under my supervision

2. **LESLIE MS**, Kant O\*, Perkins-Taylor C\*, Minton G, Van Bresse MF, Collins T, Al Harthi S, Wilson MS, Baldwin R, Willson A. *IN REVIEW*. Visual health assessment and evaluation of anthropogenic threats to Arabian Sea humpback whales in Oman. *Mammalian Biology*  
\* Undergraduate researcher under my supervision

### **INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION REPORTS**

11. Christiansen F, Baldwin R, Minton G, Collins T, Sprogis K, Rudd J, Al Harthi S, **LESLIE MS**, MacDonald D, Willson A. Assessing the body condition of the world's only non-migratory humpback whale population, the endangered Arabian Sea humpback whale. SC/68b/CMP/23\_rev1.
10. Minton G, Van Bresse MF, Willson A, Collins T, Al Harthi S, Wilson MS, Baldwin R, **LESLIE MS**, Robbins J, Van Waerbeek K. Visual health assessment and evaluation of anthropogenic threats to Arabian Sea humpback whales in Oman. SC/68b/CMP/16\_rev1.
9. Willson A, **LESLIE MS**, Baldwin R, Cerchio S, Childerhouse S, Collins T, Findlay K, Genov T, Godley BJ, Al-Harthi S, MacDonald D, Minton G, Zerbini AN, Witt MJ. **2018**. Update on satellite telemetry studies and first unoccupied aerial vehicle assisted health assessment studies of Arabian Sea humpback whales off the coast of Oman. SC/67b/CMP/13\_rev1.
8. Jackson JA, Carroll, EL, Kennedy A, Leaper R, Calderan S, **LESLIE MS**, Andriolo A, Stepien EN, Zerbini AN, Miller BS, and Kelly N. **2018**. Sighting and acoustic records of right whales collected in South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur) waters. SC/67b/SH/20.
7. **LESLIE MS**, Parker LD, Maldonado JE, Cerchio S, Archer EI, Rosenbaum HC, Pyenson ND, Luksenburg J, Penry GS, Brownell RL, Rosel P. **2017**. Research Update: Phylogenomic systematics of Balaenopteroid whales using Ultra-Conserved Elements. SC/67a/NH/WP08.
6. Carvalho I, Loo JC, Collins T, Pomilla C, Barendse J, Best P, Hersch R, **LESLIE MS**, Thornton M, Rosenbaum HC. **2010**. Temporal patterns of population structure of humpback whales on the west coast of Africa (B Stock). SC/62/SH8.
5. Pomilla C, Collins T, Minton G, Findlay KP, **LESLIE MS**, PONNAMPALAM L, Baldwin R, Rosenbaum HC. **2010**. Genetic distinctiveness and decline of a small population of humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) in the Arabian Sea (Region X). SC/62/SH6.
4. Cerchio S, Ersts PJ, Pomilla C, Loo JC, Razafindrakoto Y, **LESLIE MS**, Andrianrivelon N, Minton G, Dushane J, Murray A, Collins T, Rosenbaum HC. **2009**. Updated estimates of abundance for humpback whale breeding stock C3 off Madagascar, 2000–2006 SC/61/SH7.
3. Loo JC, Pomilla C, Mendez, **LESLIE MS**, Rosenbaum HC. **2006**. Assessment of genetic connectivity between breeding regions B and C and feeding areas I, II and III. SC/A06/HW.



2. Rosenbaum HC, Pomilla C, C. Olavarria, C. S. Baker, **LESLIE MS**, *et al.* **2006**. A first and preliminary analysis of mtDNA sequences from humpback whales from breeding stocks A-G and X. SC/A06/HW. SC/58/HW.

1. Rosenbaum HC, Pomilla C, **LESLIE MS**, Mendez M, Best PB, Collins T, Engel MH, Ersts PJ, Findlay KP, Kotze PJH, Meyer M, Minton G, Barendse J. Van Waerbeek K. and Razafindrakoto Y. **2006**. MtDNA diversity & population structure of humpback whales from the wintering areas in the Indian & south Atlantic Oceans SC/58/SH13.

### **RESEARCH GRANTS**

2018 - 2020 Swarthmore College Faculty Research Support Award (\$5000)

2019 Swarthmore College Green Initiative Grant (\$2000)

2018 Swarthmore College Engaged Scholar Research Grant (\$5000)

2017 Frontiers Community Support Fund (\$1700)

2017 Research Program Grant - Marine Mammal Commission (\$14,865)

2017 Rebecca Mead Memorial Grant - National Museum of Natural History (\$6,000)

2017 ADS Research Grant - National Museum of Natural History (\$7,165)

2012 Lerner-Gray Memorial Grant - American Museum of Natural History (\$2,000)

2012 Research Grant - Sussman Foundation (\$5,319)

2011 Small Research Grant - UC-Mexus (\$1,500)

1999 & 2001 Lou Wentz Undergraduate Research Awards (\$2,400 total)

### **FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS**

2021 AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellowship

2019 Early Career Travel Award - American Society of Mammalogists (\$750)

2017 Secretary's Distinguished Research Fellow - Smithsonian Institution (\$57,000)

2016 James Smithson Postdoctoral Fellowship - Smithsonian Institution (\$57,000)

2015 Ralph Lewin Fellow in Marine Bio - Scripps Inst. of Oceanography (\$30,000)

2015 Travel Award - American Society of Mammalogists (\$300)

2014 & 2015 Student Travel Award - Scripps Inst. of Oceanography (\$2,000)

2012 NSF-IGERT Fellowship (\$38,000)

2010 Best Student Poster - SNP Workshop III

2010 Young Scientist Award - SNP Workshop III

2008 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (\$113,000)

2005 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship -Honorable Mention

2002 Outstanding Zoology Senior – Oklahoma State University Zoology Dept.

### **INVITED ORAL PRESENTATIONS**

2020 – Swarthmore College Alumni Weekend – Swarthmore, PA (canceled due to COVID-19)

2020 - Villanova University – Biology Department Seminar Series – Villanova, PA

2019 - Keynote Speaker – Evolution in Philadelphia Conference (EPiC) – Philadelphia, PA

2019 - Swarthmore College Zero Waste Consumption Symposium – Swarthmore, PA

2017 - Northern Virginia Community College – Sterling, VA

2017 - SCBI-SMSC Seminar Series – Smithsonian Institution - Front Royal, VA

2017 - James Smithson Fellows Lecture – Smithsonian Institution – Washington, D.C.

2017 - Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute – National Zoo - Washington, D.C.

2016 - Texas A&M Marine Biology Department – Galveston, TX

2015 - Smithsonian Institution, NMNH, Vertebrate Zoology – Washington, D.C.

2014 - U.S. Marine Mammal Commission – Washington, D.C.

2014 - NMFS - William F. Perrin Symposium – La Jolla, CA

2013 - U.S. Marine Mammal Commission – La Jolla, CA

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (LEAD ONLY)**

**LESLIE MS**, L.D. Parker, J. Yoon, F. I. Archer, Salvatore Cerchio, Rubaiyat Mowgli Mansur, Patricia Rosel, Robert L. Brownell, Nicholas D. Pyenson, Jesús E. Maldonado. 2019.

Phylogenomic Systematics of Balaenopteroid whales: Ultraconserved Elements support the Non-Monophyly of Balaenopteridae, Balaenoptera, and a novel lineage of Gulf of Mexico Bryde's whale (*Balaenoptera* c.f. *B. edeni*). American Society of Mammalogist, Washington, D.C.

**LESLIE MS**, Archer FI, Morin PA. 2016. Oral Presentation: Inferring population structure of depleted eastern tropical Pacific spotted (*Stenella attenuata*) and spinner dolphins (*S. longirostris*) using mitogenomic and nuclear SNP data. *18th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals*. San Francisco, CA.

**LESLIE MS**, Archer FI, Morin PA. 2015. Oral Presentation: Inferring Stock Boundaries for the Recovery of Significantly Depleted Pelagic Dolphins Using Next Generation Genetic Tools. American Society of Mammalogists. Jacksonville, FL.

**LESLIE MS**, Archer FI, Perrin WF, Morin PA. 2014. Oral Presentation: Using Next Generation Genetic Tools to Define Stock Boundaries for the Recovery of Significantly Depleted Pelagic Dolphins in the Eastern Pacific. American Society of Mammalogists. Oklahoma City, OK.

**LESLIE MS**, Archer FI, Morin PA. 2012. Poster Presentation: Can whole mitochondrial genomes reveal changes in population abundance of eastern tropical Pacific Ocean dolphins during the late Pleistocene? American Cetacean Society, San Diego CA.

**LESLIE MS**, Frey A, Hancock BL, Robertson KM, Morin PA. 23 March 2010. Using custom-designed capture arrays and next-generation sequencing to streamline SNP discovery: An example from the study of global population structure of fin whales (*Balaenoptera physalus*). *SNP Workshop III*. Blaine, Washington. **Best Student Presentation Award**.

**LESLIE MS**, van de Groot P, Weber DS. 21 Dec 2007. Oral Presentation: MHC diversity in Southern Elephant Seals from Marion Island. *17th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals*. Capetown, South Africa.

**LESLIE MS**, Rosenbaum HC, Perrin WF. 20 Dec 2005. Poster presentation: Investigation of a Possible Cetacean of Hybrid Origin: *Stenella clymene*. *16th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals*. San Diego, CA.

### **PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS**

Society for Marine Mammalogy – LIFE MEMBER

American Society of Mammalogists – LIFE MEMBER

AAAS

SACNAS

Sigma Xi

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

2020 - Pronouns 101 – Swarthmore Queer Advocate Development – Swarthmore, PA  
2016 - Advanced Sampling w Unoccupied Aerial Systems (UAS) - NOAA - La Jolla, CA  
2015 - Photogrammetry w Unoccupied Aerial Systems (UAS) - NOAA - La Jolla, CA  
2015 - Inspiring Research through Science Communication – UCSD Theater Department  
2014 - Science Writing and Journalism – UCSD Extension  
2013 - Science Communications and Marketing – NOAA Southwest Fisheries  
2013 - Alan Alda Center for Science Communication – Stony Brook University  
2013 - Workshop on Molecular Evolution - Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, CO  
2012 - Conservation Genetics Workshop - University of Montana, Kalispell, MT  
2011 - Communicating Ocean Science to Informal Audiences – Birch Aquarium

## **LICENCES AND CERTIFICATIONS**

2019 to Present – F.A.A. Part 107 Remote Drone Pilot Certification  
2017 – Wilderness First Aid - National Outdoor Leadership School  
2017 – Basic and Infant First Aid and CPR Certification - Red Cross  
2017 – Personal Survivorship Training Certification - Marine Institute of Technology  
2016 – F.A.A. Part 107 Remote Pilot Certification for Unoccupied Aerial Systems (UAS)  
1999 – PADI SCUBA OPEN DIVER Certification

## **INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE**

2019 – Crum Woods Stewardship Committee (*Pro Bono*)  
2017 – 2018 Seminar Committee - Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institution  
2012 – 2016 Aquarium/Museum Committee - Scripps Institution of Oceanography  
2009 – 2016 Tissue/DNA Loan Committee - Southwest Fisheries Science Center, NOAA  
2009 – 2012 Advisory Committee on Sustainability - University of California-San Diego

## **SERVICE TO THE FIELD**

### **Board of Directors:**

2015-Present - *Panacetacea*: cetacean research & conservation NGO in Panama & Costa Rica.  
<http://www.panacetacea.org>

**Review Editor:** *Frontiers in Marine Science* – Marine Megafauna Section

**Peer-Reviewer:** *Journal of Mammalogy*, *Marine Mammal Science*, *Mitochondrial DNA*,  
*PLoS ONE*, *Royal Society Open Science*, *PeerJ*, *Biology Letters*, NOAA Technical Reports

**Fellowship Reviewer:** Society for Marine Mammalogy

### **Conservation-Related Service:**

2020 – Present IUCN Consortium for the Conservation of Atlantic Humpback Dolphins  
2020 – Present International Whaling Commission - Invited Participant – Stock Definition  
2020 – 2021 Student Conference on Conservation Science – AMNH - Mentor  
2017 International Whaling Commission - Invited Participant & Rapporteur – Southern Hemisphere Subcommittee  
2015 International Whaling Commission - Invited Participant & Rapporteur – Stock Definition Subcommittee  
2006 International Whaling Commission - Invited Participant – Southern Hemisphere Subcommittee

### **Professional Society Service:**

2020 – Present Society for Marine Mammalogy – Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Comm.  
2019 – Present American Society of Mammalogists - Marine Mammal Committee Co-Chair  
2015 – Present American Society of Mammalogists - Marine Mammal Committee  
2015 – 2018 Society for Marine Mammalogy - Social Media Committee Chair  
2012 – 2016 Society for Marine Mammalogy - International Relations Committee  
2012 – 2013 Society for Marine Mammalogy - *Ad hoc* Committee on Social Media  
2007 – 2008 Consortium for the Barcode of Life

### **Symposia Organized:**

2017 *The Future of Collections-based Marine Mammal Research* – Soc. for Mar. Mammalogy  
2015 *Advanced Techniques in Collections-Based Mammalogy* – Amer. Soc. of Mammalogists  
2007 *Conservation Genetics Symposium* - American Genetics Association.

### **OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

#### **Invited Public Lectures:**

2020 Swarthmore College Alumni Weekend – (CANCELED DUE TO COVID19)  
2017 American Association of Zookeepers – Washington, D.C.  
2017 Smithsonian Latino Young Ambassadors – Washington, D.C.  
2014 The Birch Aquarium – La Jolla, CA  
2011 The Ocean Institute – Dana Point, CA  
2004 The Explorers Club Headquarters – New York, NY

#### **Selected Interviews/Media Coverage of Research:**

*Swarthmore College Bulletin Alumni Magazine:*

*Fall 2021 – In Deep; Starting with Love.* <https://magazine.swarthmore.edu/issue/fall-2021/in-deep/>

*Ars Technica: When memes fail anatomy: The scale of a blue whale’s butthole*

<https://arstechnica.com/science/2021/01/2020s-last-pressing-question-how-big-is-a-bluewhales-anus/>

*Swarthmore College Bulletin Alumni Magazine:*

*Winter 2020 – The Name Game; An Extinct Leviathan Gets an Update. Print Only*

*San Diego Union Tribune:*

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/education/story/2019-10-10/gratefulstudents-renames-majestic-whale-for-beloved-ucsd-professor>

*Swarthmore College News Feature:* <https://www.swarthmore.edu/news-events/biologistmatt-leslie-renames-extinct-whale-species>

*Smithsonian Ocean Portal:* <https://ocean.si.edu/ocean-life/marine-mammals/casemystery-whale>

*Smithsonian Insider:* <https://insider.si.edu/2018/05/some-dolphins-cross-the-pacificmore-easily-than-others-why-that-matters-for-protecting-them/>

*Popular Mechanics:*

<http://www.popularmechanics.com/science/animals/a25051/paleontologysmithsonian->

*National Wildlife Magazine*: <https://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/National-Wildlife/Animals/Archives/2015/Brydes-Whales.aspx>

**Original Online/Print Media:**

Guest Blog – *Smithsonian Office of Fellowships* - June 21, 2017

<https://www.smithsonianofi.com/blog/2017/06/21/a-whale-of-a-time/>

Guest Blog – *Smithsonian Office of Fellowships* - April 17, 2017

<https://www.smithsonianofi.com/blog/2017/04/17/a-whale-of-a-tale/>

Guest Blog – *WildView* – Wildlife Conservation Society – Dec 8, 2014

<http://blog.wcs.org/photo/2014/12/08/one-giant-leap-humpback-whales/>

Original Podcast – *On Species at a Time* – Encyclopedia of Life – Nov 13, 2013

<https://beta.prx.org/stories/106546>

Guest Blog – *Around the Pier* – Scripps Institution of Oceanography - Oct 07, 2012

<https://scripps.ucsd.edu/news/2838>

**SELECTED FIELD RESEARCH EXPEDITIONS (\* = Lead)**

2019, 2022 – Gulf of Chiriqui, Panama – Panacetacea– humpback and Bryde’s whales

2018 – South Georgia Island – British Antarctic Survey – Southern right whales

2017 – Oman – Envir. Society Oman/Smithsonian – Arabian Sea humpback whales

2017 – Patagonia, Chile – Woods Hole/MERI/Smithsonian - blue whale research

2013 – Mekong River, Cambodia – NOAA/WWF Irrawaddy dolphin research

2010 – Northwestern Hawaiian Islands – USA - NOAA HICEAS Cruise

2009 – Tongue of the Ocean – Bahamas – beaked whale research

2003, 2004\*, 2006\* – Antongil Bay – Madagascar – Wildlife Conservation Society

2001 – Houston Ship Channel - USA – Texas A&M University

1999 – Byron Bay - Australia –humpback whale research