

Amy Nicole Bonka

Department of Biology
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Birmingham, AL 35294-1170
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EDUCATION and CERTIFICATIONS

- The University of Alabama – Birmingham* Present
Doctorate of Philosophy
- The University of Alabama – Birmingham* August 2015
Master of Science in Biology, 3.8 G.P.A.
Thesis: The biological and conservational implications of hatchling
biology in the Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*) sea turtle.
- The University of Alabama – Birmingham* July 2011
Bachelor of Science in Biology – Cum Laude, 3.6 G.P.A.
Marine Science Concentration,
Chemistry & Art Studio minors

CERTIFICATIONS

- The University of Alabama – Birmingham* Spring 2017
Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL)
Associate Certificate

PUBLICATIONS

- E. Bevan, T. Wibbels, B MZ Najera, M AC Martinez, L AS Martinez, FI Martinez, JM Cuevas, T. Anderson, **A. Bonka**, MH Hernandez, LJ Pena, PM Burchfield. 2015. Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) for monitoring sea turtles in near-shore waters. *Marine Turtle Newsletter*. 145:19-22

GRANTS

- 2018: Ireland Graduate Student Travel Grant, UAB Graduate School, \$1000
2017: National Geographic Early Career Grant, National Geographic Society, \$5000
2016: Student Grants in Aid of Research, The Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, \$1000
2016: Travel Grant, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, Department of Biology \$400
2016: Charlotte Magnum Student Support, The Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, \$99
2015: Travel Grant, The University of Alabama at Birmingham Department of Biology \$500
2015: Charlotte Magnum Student Support, The Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, \$99
2015: Travel Grant, Alabama Academy of Sciences \$24
2015: Student Research Grant, Alabama Academy of Sciences \$250

CONFERENCES and PRESENTATIONS

ORAL

- Jan. 2018: Discoveries in the Making
Oral Presentation, A Tale of Two Turtles: Using Science to Save the World's Most Endangered Sea Turtles
- Sept. 2017: UAB Three Minute Thesis
Oral Presentation, Science Based Approach for Conserving Sea Turtles
- Apr. 2017: 37th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation (ISTS)
Oral Presentation, Evaluating Hatchling Fitness in Relation to Nest Temperatures of Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) Sea Turtles at Jamursba Medi Nesting Beach, Bird's Head Seascape – Papua Barat, Indonesia
- Jan. 2017: The Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology
Oral Presentation, Hatchling Kemp's Ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*) Nest Emergence at Their Primary Nesting Beach
- Jan. 2016: The Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology
Oral Presentation, Horizon Regime and Light Intensity Affect Sea-Finding Orientation in Hatchling Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*) Sea Turtles
- Jun. 2015: The University of Alabama at Birmingham Department of Biology, Public Thesis Defense
Oral Presentation, The Biological and Conservational Implications of Hatchling Biology in the Kemp's Ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*) Sea Turtle: Thesis Defense
- Jun. 2015: Bi-National Kemp's Ridley Recovery Program Field Symposium
Oral Presentation, Emergen de Las Crías de la Tortuga Lora (*Lepidochelys kempii*) en su Playa Natural
Oral Presentation, Orientación de las Crías de la Tortuga Lora (*Lepidochelys kempii*)
- Mar. 2015: Alabama Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting
Oral Presentation, Emergence Pattern of Hatchling Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*) Sea Turtles at Their Natural Nesting Beach
- Mar. 2015: UAB Graduate Student Research Days
Oral Presentation, Emergence Pattern of Hatchling Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*) Sea Turtles at Their Natural Nesting Beach

POSTER

- Feb. 2018 UAB Darwin Day
Poster Presentation, Timing of Nest Emergence in Kemp's Ridley and Leatherback Hatchlings
- Jan. 2015: The Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology
Poster Presentation, Sea-finding Orientation of Hatchling Kemp's Ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*) Sea Turtles at Their Natural Nesting Beach
- Feb. 2014: The University of Alabama at Birmingham Darwin Day
Poster Presentation, Emergence Times and Sea-Finding Orientation of Hatchling Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtles (*Lepidochelys kempii*) at Their Natural Nesting Beach
- Nov. 2014: Second International Kemp's Ridley Symposium
Poster Presentation, Emergence Times of Hatchling Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtles at Their Natural Nesting Beach
Poster Presentation, Sea-finding Orientation of Hatchling Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtles at Their Natural Nesting Beach
- Oct. 2014: Alabama Chapter of Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (ALAPARC)

Poster Presentation, Emergence Times and Sea-Finding Orientation of Hatchling Kemp's Ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*) Sea Turtles at Their Natural Nesting Beach
 Apr. 2013: International Symposium for Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation
 Poster Presentation, Development and Evaluation of an On-Site Photomicroscopy Station for Documenting the Sex of Hatchling Kemp's Ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*) Sea Turtles at Rancho Nuevo, Mexico

Session Co-Chair

Feb. 2016: Southeastern Regional Sea Turtle Symposium
 Co-Chair, Special Session on the Kemp's Ridley and the Gulf of Mexico

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

INVITED LECTURES

The Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle Marine Reptiles Undergraduate Course The University of Papua (UNIPA), Papua Barat, Indonesia	May 2018
Use of Technology and The Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle Research Methods Graduate Course The University of Papua (UNIPA), Papua Barat, Indonesia	May 2018
Neurotransmitters & the Synapse Principles of Human Physiology – UAB	Sept. 2018
Cardiac Muscle, Cardiac Cycle & Electrical Activity Principles of Human Physiology – UAB	Jul. 2018
Diversity of Turtles-The Kemp's Ridley; Crocodylians Vertebrate Zoology – UAB	Apr. 2018
Chondrichthyes Vertebrate Zoology – UAB	Feb. 2018
Glial Cells Principles of Human Physiology – UAB	Oct. 2017

LABORATORY

<i>BY 409 – Principles of Human Physiology Lab – UAB</i> Teaching Assistant	Fall 2018 (1 section)
<i>BY 256 – Vertebrate Zoology Lab – UAB</i> Teaching Assistant	Spring 2018 (3 sections)
<i>BY 409 – Principles of Human Physiology Lab – UAB</i> Teaching Assistant	Fall 2017 (2 section)
<i>BY 256 – Vertebrate Zoology Lab – UAB</i> Teaching Assistant	Spring 2017 (3 sections)
<i>BY 409 – Principles of Human Physiology Lab – UAB</i> Teaching Assistant	Fall 2016 (2 sections)
<i>BY 102 – Contemporary Topics in Biology Lab – UAB</i> Teaching Assistant	Summer 2016 (2 sections)
<i>BY 256 – Vertebrate Zoology Lab – UAB</i> Teaching Assistant	Spring 2016 (2 sections)
<i>BY 409 – Principles of Human Physiology Lab – UAB</i>	Fall 2015 (2 sections)

Teaching Assistant	
<i>BY 409 – Principles of Human Physiology Lab – UAB</i>	Summer 2015 (1 sections)
Teaching Assistant	
<i>BY 256 – Vertebrate Zoology Lab – UAB</i>	Spring 2015 (2 sections)
Teaching Assistant	
<i>BY 409 – Principles of Human Physiology Lab – UAB</i>	Fall 2014 (2 sections)
Teaching Assistant	
<i>BY 256 – Vertebrate Zoology Lab – UAB</i>	Spring 2014 (2 sections)
Teaching Assistant	
Spanish-English Lessons – Rancho Nuevo, Mexico	Summer 2014
Spanish-English daily lessons – Immersion learning	
<i>BY 123 – Introductory Biology Lab I – UAB</i>	Fall 2013 (2 sections)
Teaching Assistant	
Spanish-English Lessons – Rancho Nuevo, Mexico	Summer 2013
Spanish-English daily lessons – Immersion learning	Summer 2012

ASSISTANTSHIPS and INTERNSHIPS

- 2013 – Present: Teaching Assistantship, The Department of Biology, The University of Alabama – Birmingham
- 2011: Rehabilitation Internship, Sea Turtle, Dolphin, and Whale Hospital, Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium – Sarasota, FL
- 2011: Husbandry/Aquarist Internship, Wetlands Gallery, The Florida Aquarium – Tampa, FL

AWARDS and HONORS

- 2015: 1st Place Oral Presentation, UAB Graduate Student Research Days
- 2015: 3rd Place Oral Presentation, Alabama Academy of Sciences
- 2014: Honorable Mention, Graduate student photo contest, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, Department of Biology
- 2014: 2nd Place, Graduate student comical photo contest, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, Department of Biology
- 2008: Phi Sigma Biological Honors Society, Gamma Theta Chapter
- 2006 – 2010: University Scholars Awards Scholarship, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, \$5000 Annually

RESEARCH and FIELD EXPERIENCE

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| <i>Research Assistant</i> | Aug. 2013 – Aug 2015 |
| The Biological and Conservational Implications of Hatchling Biology in the Kemp's ridley (<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>) Sea Turtle – Master's Thesis | |
| Dr. Thane Wibbels (Advisor/Primary Investigator) | |
| The University of Alabama at Birmingham | |

<i>Field Biologist, Investigation and Conservation teams</i>	Apr. – Aug. 2014
Programa Binacional de la Tortuga Lora	Apr. – Aug. 2013
(Bi-national Kemp's ridley Recovery Program)	Apr. – Aug. 2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Status Monitoring • Predator Abundance and Sex Ratio studies • Beach patrol and Nest Density monitoring • PIT and Flipper tag applications • Nest relocations • Stranded and Injured Turtle Rescue 	
Jaime Peña (Primary Investigator)	
Gladys Porter Zoo – Brownsville, TX	
Field Location: Rancho Nuevo, Tamaulipas, México	
<i>Research Assistant/Coordinator</i>	May – Jul. 2011
Diamondback Terrapin Head Start Program/Conservation Project	May – Aug. 2010
Dr. Thane Wibbels (Primary Investigator)	
Taylor Roberge (Supervisor/Contact)	
The University of Alabama at Birmingham in conjunction with	
Dauphin Island Sea Lab	
<i>Ranger</i>	Jul. – Sep. 2011
P.J. Hoffmaster State Park	
Patrick Whalen (Supervisor)	
Muskegon, MI	
<i>Undergraduate Research Assistant</i>	Jan. – May 2009
The effects of ocean acidification on calcifying organisms (<i>Lytechinus Variegatus</i>)	
Dr. Roberta Challener (Advisor)	
Dr. Jim McClintock (Primary Investigator)	
The University of Alabama at Birmingham	
<i>Ranger</i>	May – Aug. 2009
Grand Haven State Park	May – Aug. 2008
Patrick Whalen (Supervisor)	
Grand Haven, MI	

SERVICE

Lovelady Center Elementary School Science Mentoring Program	Fall 2017
Totally Turtles Student Workshop	
CORD High School Program	Summer 2015
Guest Lecture	
UAB Undergraduate Student Research Expo	Apr. 2014
Oral Presentation Judge	
Birmingham Elementary Schools Science Fair at Avondale Elementary School	Dec. 2013
Judge: Kindergarten – 4 th grade projects	
Birmingham Middle Schools Science Fair Mentorship Program	Aug. – Dec. 2013
Putnam Middle School Mentor, 5 th	

AFFILIATIONS

<i>The Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology</i> Member	Jan. 2014 – Present
<i>Alabama Academy of Sciences</i> Member	Jan. 2014 – 2016
<i>Marine and Field Biology Club of UAB</i> Founder, Member	Aug. 2013 – July 2014
<i>National Honor Society</i> Member	Aug. 2004 – May 2006