

Education

- 2023 - present** Graduate Student (MS)
School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences
University of Washington
Supervisor: Dr. Chelsea Wood
- 2023 - present** Graduate Certificate in One Health
Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences
University of Washington
- 2020** B.S. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department
University of California, Santa Cruz

Research Experience

- 2022 - 2023** Laboratory Manager
Primate Hormones and Behavior Lab, New York University
Manage all functions of a biological anthropology laboratory including equipment maintenance, sample organization, sample shipment and receipt, inventory and ordering, and miscellaneous tasks associated with the general productivity of the lab. Run experiments and design protocols related to laboratory analyses including immunoassays and PCR related to biological samples from monkeys as part of an NIH funded project. Duties also included database management and data analyses, administrative protocol revision, and grant writing.
- 2021 - 2023** Researcher, Necropsy Technician
Caribbean Primate Research Center, University of Pennsylvania
Assist in necropsy, data collection, analysis, and tissue banking pertaining to rhesus macaques from the Cayo Santiago free ranging primate colony in Puerto Rico. Work as a member of a small team of researchers from multiple universities and aid in all aspects of the project including preparation, organization, storage, and shipment of biological samples. Organized and coordinated an independent research project to survey a subset of rhesus macaques for endoparasitism (in preparation).
- 2020 - 2021** Animal Care Technician
National Wildlife Health Center, United States Geological Survey
Work as a member of a small team of veterinarians, scientists, and technicians on projects relating to wildlife disease mortalities and associated ecological impacts. Conduct research and animal care in a BSL-3 laboratory setting on a variety of mammal, bird, reptile, and amphibian species. Identify viruses implicated in wildlife mortality events using PCR, q-PCR, and RT-PCR techniques. Duties include animal husbandry, facilities and equipment maintenance and cleaning, euthanasia, study planning, data collection and processing, writing, and miscellaneous tasks associated with running a high throughput animal research facility.

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2020 Research Assistant
Center For Cardiovascular Research. John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawai'i, Manoa

Assisted with research projects conducted by the Tallquist Laboratory in a BSL-2 lab including mouse colony maintenance, genotyping, induction, euthanasia, and tissue harvesting. Additionally, in charge of ordering supplies, maintaining equipment and inventories, coordinating deliveries, and assisting study implementation.

2016 - 2019 Research Assistant
Pinniped Cognition and Sensory Systems Lab
Institute of Marine Sciences, University of California, Santa Cruz
Volunteer member of a multifaceted research laboratory centered around cooperative studies on cognition and sensory systems of multiple species of pinniped. Duties included animal husbandry, diet preparation, facilities maintenance and cleaning, water quality analysis, coordinating and facilitating delivery of supplies, animal training, and research. Conducted field work studies on northern elephant seals and participated in independent research of sea otter photoreceptor composition. Research areas included acoustics, physiology, visual acuity, and sensory adaptations.

Other Employment and Experience

2024 - present Writing Tutor
Odegaard Writing and Research Center
University of Washington
Provide writing tutoring services to writers on course assignments, applications, creative pieces, and other writing-based assignments.

2020 Intern
Hawai'i Marine Animal Response
Volunteer member of the island's largest stranding response network for Hawaiian monk seals, seabirds, and sea turtles. Fielded calls from the public and partners at NOAA and other agencies to carefully deliver field response to stranding events across the island, participated in dispatching volunteers, and in responding to and reporting strandings in the field.

2019 Naturalist
Western Prince Whale Watching
Guided whale watching expeditions and informed the public on animals seen, the ecology of the area, and pertinent research and conservation efforts on each species. Additionally functioned as a deckhand and helped the captain with sightings and other miscellaneous maritime tasks. Tours lasted 3-5 hours.

2019 Intern
Monterey Bay Whale Watch
Aided scientists and captains in data collection, sighting, and behavioral observation of various species in Monterey Bay, CA on 8 hour research and whale watching

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cruises. Additionally was in charge of communicating animal life history information to members of the public and digitizing archival data.

- 2018** Education Coordinator
Pinniped Cognition and Sensory Systems Lab
Institute of Marine Sciences, University of California, Santa Cruz
Designed and implemented a marine science based education program for middle school students (ages 8-12) centered around conducting research and conservation efforts for pinniped species in and around California. Course consisted of classroom, field, and laboratory portions including hands on demonstrations and data collection with pinnipeds.
- 2018** Laboratory Assistant
Santa Cruz Biotechnology
Assisted a large-scale chemical manufacturing laboratory with the creation of buffers and packaging of chemical materials for sale. Made chemical buffers in large quantities consistently, restocked necessary laboratory supplies, and aided chemists in assorted tasks related to creating chemical compounds for medical, research, and industrial applications.
- 2017 - 2019** Naturalist, Tour Guide
Kayak Connection
Led guided tours of the Elkhorn Slough via kayak. Was in charge of explaining all sightings of marine birds and animals, as well as describing the ecology, history, and significance of the area in which tours occurred. Managed groups comprised of 8 to 20 (usually unfamiliar with kayaking) patrons on how to properly function in their boats and facilitated an informative and safe expedition into the slough on a daily basis.
- 2017** Naturalist
Chardonnay Sailing Charter
Functioned as a naturalist on a daily sailing charter in the Santa Cruz bay area. Informed patrons on sightings of wildlife, ecological significance of species present, and the current research being conducted in the area. Occasionally served beverages and food to patrons when not performing naturalist duties.
- 2015 - 2016** Tidepool Docent
Natural Bridges State Beach, California State Parks
Led tours of tidepools for children ages 5 to 14 adjacent to a popular beach in Santa Cruz, CA. Tours consisted of an informative classroom session followed by a guided walking tour of the tidepools where students were able to identify and learn about all manner of intertidal marine species.

Publications

Cooper, E.B., **Whalen, C.**, Beeby, N., Negron-Del Valle, J.N., Phillips, D., Cayo Biobank Research Unit, Snyder-Mackler, N., Brent, L.J.N., & Higham, J.P. (2025). Associations between social behaviour and proinflammatory immune activation are modulated by age in a free-ranging primate population. *Animal Behaviour*, 2019:123021
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anbehav.2024.10.035>

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Higham, J.P., Cooper, E.B., **Whalen, C.**, Stahl-Hennig, C., Giavedoni, L.D., & Heistermann, M. (2023). Urinary cytokine measurements do not reflect surgery-induced inflammation in rhesus macaques. *American Journal of Primatology* e23506 <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajp.23506>

Chiou, K.L., DeCasien, A.R., Rees, K.P, Testard, C., Spurrell, C.H., Gogate, A.A., Pliner, H.A., Tremblay, S., Mercer, A., **Whalen, C.J.**, Negrón-Del Valle, J.E., Janiak, M.C., Bauman Surratt, S.E., González, O., Compo, N.R., Stock, M.K., Ruiz-Lambides, A.V., Martínez, M.I., Cayo Biobank Research Unit, Wilson, M.A., Melin, A.D., Antón, S.C., Walker, C.S., Sallet, J., Newbern, J.M., Starita, L.M., Shendure, J., Higham, J.P., Brent, L.J.N., Montague, M.J., Platt, M.L., Snyder-Mackler, N. (2022). Multiregion transcriptomic profiling of the primate brain reveals signatures of aging and the social environment. *Nature Neuroscience*, 25(11). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41593-022-01197-0>

Cooper, E.B., Watowich, M.M., Beeby, N., **Whalen, C.**, Montague, M.J., Cayo Biobank Research Unit, Brent, L.J.N., Snyder-Mackler, N., & Higham, J.P. 2022. Concentrations of urinary neopterin, but not suPAR, positively correlate with age in rhesus macaques. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, 10: 1007052 <https://doi.org/10.3389/fevo.2022.1007052>

In review:

Díaz-Morales, D.M., Atkinson, S.D., Boyd, D., Commisso G., Christner S., Jones I., Leslie K., Thirtyacre, J., **Whalen, C.**, Kuris, A.M., Mann, J., Bart, H., and Wood, C.L. Stressor interactions affect myxozoan abundance in a 42year dataset from the Pearl River, Louisiana, USA. *Parasitology (In Review)*

Wood, C.L., Commisso, G., Cruz-Laufer, A.J., Díaz-Morales, D.M., McClenachan, L., Rollins, R.L., Slapeta, J., and **Whalen, C.** What is “normal”? Defining baseline states of infection for ecosystems. *(In Review)*

In preparation:

Whalen, C. & Arguelles, N. Endoparasitism in Cayo Santiago Rhesus macaques (Macaca mulatta): An opportunistic survey. *In progress*

Whalen, C.J., Lamb, H., Leon, A., Calhoun, D., Falendysz, E., and Rocke, T. PIT tagging of Big Brown Bats (*Eptesicus fuscus*): Best practices for tag retention and mitigation of adverse health events. *In progress*

Presentations

Poster:

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Whalen, C., Christner, S., Boyd, D., Commisso, G., Jones, I., Leslie, K., Thirtyacre, J., Kuris, A.M., Mann, J., Bart, H., Díaz-Morales, D., and Wood, C.L. 2024. [Poster]. How's the Weather in There? Impacts of extreme weather events on parasitism in riverine fishes. **Western Society of Naturalists**. Portland, Oregon. November 2024.

Whalen, C., Mastick, N., and Wood, C.L. 2024. [Poster]. Energetic burden of endoparasitism on harbor seal (*Phoca vitulina*) hosts. **Student Conference for Conservation Science - New York**. New York, New York. October 2024.

Whalen, C., Falendysz, E., Lamb, H., Leon, A., Calhoun, D., & Rocke, T. 2022. [Poster]. Comparisons of attachment methods for Passive Integrated Transponder tags in big brown bats (*Eptesicus fuscus*) and little brown bats (*Myotis lucifugus*) used in white nose syndrome research. **Wildlife Disease Association**. Madison, Wisconsin. July 2022.

Talk:

Whalen, C., Christner, S., Boyd, D., Commisso, G., Jones, I., Leslie, K., Thirtyacre, J., Kuris, A.M., Mann, J., Bart, H., Díaz-Morales, D., and Wood, C.L. 2025. [Talk]. How's the Weather in There? Impacts of extreme weather events on parasitism in riverine fishes. **Student Conference for Conservation Science - New York**. New York, New York. October 2025.

Whalen, C., Christner, S., Boyd, D., Commisso, G., Jones, I., Leslie, K., Thirtyacre, J., Kuris, A.M., Mann, J., Bart, H., Díaz-Morales, D., and Wood, C.L. 2025. [Talk]. How's the Weather in There? Impacts of extreme weather events on parasitism in riverine fishes. **Wildlife Disease Association**. Victoria, BC, Canada. July 2025.

Whalen, C., Christner, S., Boyd, D., Commisso, G., Jones, I., Leslie, K., Thirtyacre, J., Kuris, A.M., Mann, J., Bart, H., Díaz-Morales, D., and Wood, C.L. 2024. [Talk]. How's the Weather in There? Impacts of extreme weather events on parasitism in riverine fishes. **Graduate Student Symposium**. School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences. Seattle, Washington. November 2024.

Whalen, C. & Commisso, G. 2023. [Talk]. Survival of the Fittest: Application of Darwinism to aid resource allocation in academia. **Graduate Student Symposium**. School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences. Seattle, Washington. November 2023.

Whalen, C. & Arguelles, N. 2022. [Talk]. Endoparasitism in Cayo Santiago Rhesus macaques (*Macaca mulatta*): An opportunistic survey. **Cayo Santiago Research Symposium**. Tempe, Arizona. April 2022.

Teaching

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- 2023, 2024, 2025** **Teaching Assistant**
FISH406: Parasite Ecology
Led weekly laboratory sections for 24 students, graded midterm and final exams, designed study guides, and held office hours for a class of 48 total students in an upper level undergraduate course. Worked alongside the Professor and one other graduate student teaching assistant to achieve the course objectives.
- 2025** **Guest Lecture**
FISH497: Evolutionary Ecology of Marine Mammals
Discussed the role of parasitism and competition in marine mammal ecosystems and led a dissection of marine mammal GI tracts at the Burke Museum.

Leadership and Outreach

- 2024 - present** **Wood Lab Volunteers**
School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, University of Washington
Manage a team of 14 undergraduate volunteers in laboratory-based dissection, data collection, safety training, and project related mentorship/careers development. Total hours combined per week: 2024 ~ 46, 2025 ~ 80.
- 2024 - present** **Chapter Co-Leader**
Northwest Student Chapter of the Society for Marine Mammalogy
Serve as chapter co-leader of the NWSSMM. Responsibilities include managing membership, newsletter and listserv communications, and coordinating with faculty leaders across 4 major universities in the Pacific Northwest United States and Canada.
- 2024, 2025** **Research Experience for Undergraduates Mentor**
New Orleans, LA and Albuquerque, NM
Guided REU students in laboratory practices during a 10 week long research program over the summer. Worked closely with one student to develop a research project from design to presentation at a major conference in the United States. New Orleans REU in 2024 (4 students) and Albuquerque REU in 2025 (3 students).
- 2025** **GRFP Mentor**
School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, University of Washington
Reviewed undergraduate and graduate applications to the Graduate Research Fellowship Program offered by the National Science Foundation. Aided applicants in reviewing and revising their application materials.
- 2024** **Conference Organization**
Northwest Student Chapter of the Society for Marine Mammalogy
Helped organize the 2024 meeting of the NWSSMM to be held in Seattle, WA in May, 2024.
- 2024** **Hollings Scholarship Mentor**
School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, University of Washington
Reviewed undergraduate applications to the Hollings Scholarship program offered

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through the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. Aided applicants in reviewing and revising their application materials.

- 2024** SEAS Orca Bowl
School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, University of Washington
Led a booth at the 2024 Orca Bowl where high school students competing in the bowl were able to interact with parasite samples using microscopes.
- 2024** Prospective Students Day
School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, University of Washington
Presented a comedic powerpoint highlighting the atmosphere of the graduate program to potential graduate students visiting the department.
- 2022** ARISE Summer Internship Program
New York University
Aided three high school students in designing and executing a research project (Project title: Testing the effects of early life adversity on rhesus macaque health and development). Three months.
- 2019** Education Outreach Volunteer
Center for Whale Research
Informed the public on the biology, ecology, population dynamics, and conservation efforts surrounding the endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales. Provided outreach and answered questions pertaining to not only these animals, but all related species in and around the Salish Sea. Opportunistically participated in research cruises as a photographer and spotter as well as spotter for drone related research conducted from land.

Awards and Grants

- 2025** SURE Award, School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, University of Washington, Jointly awarded to Wood, Tucker, and Whalen, Amount Awarded: \$4530
- 2025** FINS Student Award, School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, University of Washington, Amount Awarded: \$140
- 2024** FINS Student Award, School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, University of Washington, Amount Awarded: \$580
- 2014, 2017** Dean's List, University of California, Santa Cruz
- 2014** Eagle Scout Award, Boy Scouts of America
- 2014** General Motors Scholarship Award, Convair Alumni Association

Endowment, Amount awarded: \$4,000

Skills / Trainings

- CPR / First Aid (2025), Field Futures Training (2023), Biosafety Level 3, 2, 1 laboratory and animal research, Vivarium, Immunohistochemistry, tissue embedding, staining, qPCR, RT-PCR, and traditional PCR techniques, Qubit DNA quantification, enzyme-linked immunoassays, Tissue sample processing: mastication, filtration, buffering, and thermocycling, Buffer creation and titration, Gavage, necropsy, euthanasia, Tissue cataloging, receipt, and shipment, Field tagging, PIT tagging, Acoustic survey of marine mammals on land and at sea, resighting, R, Microscopy, Sample sublimation and dehydration, Alcohol extraction

Mentorship

Period	Name	Hours Supervised (per week)
W 2024 - pr.	Hannah Tucker	6.5
A 2024 - S 2025	Steven Li	5
A 2024 - Su 2025	Claire Curran	15
A 2024	Erika Miller	6
S 2024	Sofia Denkovski	4
S 2024, Su 2025	Maya Kenck	4
S 2024 - pr.	Jasper Nevis	4.5
S 2024, W 2025	Erik John Bengtson	4
S 2024 - pr.	Noah Ozguner	4
S 2024 - W 2025	Ruimeng Liu	4
S 2024 - W 2025	Coral xu	3.5
A 2024 - S 2025	Alexis Twing	5

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A 2024	Ian Tan	4
A 2024 - W 2025	Julia Knopf	3.5
A 2024 - pr.	Madelyn Glasser	5
A 2024 - W 2025	Mollie Kroll	3
W 2025 - pr.	Malea Paige Isom	6
W 2025	Charli Henline	4
W 2025 - pr.	Lily Peterson	4
W 2025 - pr.	Anne Rose Erys	6
W 2025 - pr.	Brianna Fitzgerald	5
A 2024 - pr.	Jolee Thirtyacre	9
A 2025 - pr.	Daniel Morillo	6
Sp 2025 - pr.	Olivia Seyler	4
Sp 2025 - pr.	Dalton Blackwell	4
Su 2025 - pr.	Amber Fairbanks	4
A 2025 - pr.	Jordan Voltava	4
A 2025 - pr.	Sara Jacks	4
A 2025 - pr.	Jake Levin	4
A 2025 - pr.	Will Mixon	4