

Curriculum Vitae

Malini Suchak

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Education

2007-Present: Emory University, Atlanta GA
Neuroscience and Animal Behavior Program
Advisor: Frans de Waal, PhD

M.A., PhD Program in Psychology

2003-2007: Canisius College, Buffalo, NY
Biology Major, Animal Behavior Minor
Advisor: Michael Noonan, PhD

B.S. May 2007, Summa Cum Laude
Cumulative GPA: 3.88

Relevant coursework: Behavioral Neuroscience; Comparative Animal Behavior; Social Organization of Mammals; Introduction to Psychology; Organismal Biology; Evolution, Ecology and Population Biology; Introduction to Cell/Subcellular Biology; Endocrinology; Sex, Evolution and Behavior; Animal Learning; Molecular Biology; Reproductive Biopsychology; Introduction to Statistics for Behavioral Sciences.
Sequences in General Chemistry; Organic Chemistry; Physics and a course in Biochemistry have also been completed.

Research Experience

Undergraduate Experience

- Conducted at Canisius College, Buffalo, NY and Marineland of Canada, Niagara Falls, Canada.
- Supervisor: Dr. Michael Noonan, Professor of Biology and Psychology, Canisius College

Turn-taking in killer whale (*Orcinus orca*) social calling bouts. (Jan. 2006-Aug. 2006)

- Collected samples of social calling bouts, captured into a computer, performed time series analysis to look for temporal overlap rates.

Individual distinctiveness in killer whale (*Orcinus orca*) vocalizations. (May 2004-Jan. 2006)

- Collected samples of orca calls both live and off of video taping, captured into a computer, and then analyzed them for individual differences using a software algorithm.

Observational study of killer whale (*Orcinus orca*) behavior. (May 2004-Apr. 2006)

- Collected and analyzed real-time data regarding Killer Whale swimming speed, inter-whale distance and typical behaviors, as well as calf development.

Bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) visual acuity. (May 2004-Apr. 2005)

- Trained Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphins to perform tasks designed to assess their visual acuity above and below water.

Grants Awarded

Turner Travel Grant, sponsored by NSF and Indiana University CISAB, awarded August 2006, covered all expenses to the Animal Behavior Society 2006 Conference .

Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Research Internship program, awarded May 2006, for killer whale turn-taking project, \$3,000.

Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Research Internship program, awarded May 2005, for individual killer whale voices project, \$3,000.

Canisius Earning Excellence Program (CEEP), awarded May 2004, for individual killer whale voices project, \$2,800.

Conference Presentations

Suchak M. and Noonan M. (2006). The Timing of Killer Whale Calls is Not Random in a Social Context: Killer Whales Take Turns When Calling. Poster presented at the Animal Behavior Society 43rd Annual Meeting, Snowbird, Utah, 12-16 August 2006.

Suchak M. and Noonan M. (2005). Changes in Swimming Speed and Body Posture as a Function of Age in a Captive Neonatal Killer Whale. Poster presented at the Society for Marine Mammalogy Biennial Conference, San Diego, California, 11-17 December 2005.

Noonan M. and **Suchak M.** (2005). Long Term Stability and Individual Distinctiveness in Captive Orca Vocalizations. Talk presented at the Acoustical Society of America Conference, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, 16-20 May 2005.

Publications

Abstract:

Noonan M. and **Suchak M.** Long Term Stability and Individual Distinctiveness in Captive Orca Vocalizations. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*. Volume 117, Issue 4, p. 2469, April 2005.

Professional Affiliations

Student Member, Animal Behavior Society (2006-2007)

Student Member, Society for Marine Mammalogy (2005-2006)

Teaching and Mentoring Experience

Undergraduate Mentor: Marineland of Canada and Canisius College, 2006-2007

- Supervised, coordinated, and mentored a team of undergraduate research assistants collecting data on male-female and mother-calf interactions in beluga whales. Study still in progress.

Docent: Buffalo Zoo, Summer 2005

- Presented educational information sessions about otters, polar bears and aquatic conservation issues for families and small groups

Docent: Aquarium of Niagara, Summer 2005

- Presented educational information sessions about marine mammals and their conservation for large groups

Honors and Awards

Dean's List (2003-2007, with four semesters of distinction for a perfect academic record)

Biology Department Senior Award for Excellence in Animal Behavior Research (March 2007)

Alpha Sigma Nu—National Jesuit Honor Society (March 2006-present)

Dr. James P. Jordan '22 Scholarship (2005-2007)

Tri-Beta Biological Honor Society National Member (April 2005-present)

Ignation Scholarship (2003-2007)

Music Scholarship (2003-2007)

Educational Travel

Blue Springs, Florida, January 2004

- Studied West Indian manatee and Atlantic bottlenose dolphin ecology.

St. John, US Virgin Islands, January 2005

- Studied rainforest and coral reef ecology.

California Coast, March 2005

- Studied marine mammal conservation.

Algonquin Provincial Park, Canada, April 2005

- Studied the moose and boreal forest ecology.

Washington Coast and British Columbia, Canada, May 2005

- Studied the orca, salmon, forest connection.

Computer Skills

Microsoft Office (Including Excel and PowerPoint)

The Observer

Acoustic Software: Spectrogram, CoolEdit, Raven, Ishmael

Activities

Undergraduate

Admissions Tour Guide (2005-2007)

Canisius Ambassadors for Conservation (CAC) (2005)

Canisius Zoological Society (CZS) (2003-2007)

Concert Band (2003-2007)

Bassoon Lessons (2003-2007)

Arts Promotion Club (2003-2007)

Volunteer Work

Service Trip to Prundu, Romania (2006)

Canisius Community Day (2006)

Great Lakes Annual Beach Sweep (2004-2006)

Susan G. Koman Annual Breast Cancer Walk (2003, 2004, 2006)

Admissions Ambassador (2003-2005)