

2018 instructors

Kate Archibald

(Wound Management in Wildlife)

Kate is a second year zoological medicine resident at NC State and the NC Zoo. She worked at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha prior to her residency and is a 2014 NC State CVM grad.

Daron Barnes

(Wildlife Rehabilitation - Permits & Laws)

Daron graduated from NC State University in 1996 with a Bachelor's degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences. He has been an employee of the NC Wildlife Commission for 17 years, and is currently the Section Manager over Regulated Activity Permits (RAPS) and the Human Wildlife Interactions (HWI) call center. He is responsible for endangered species permits, wildlife and fish collection licenses, captivity licenses for rehabilitation and holding, falconry licenses, controlled hunting preserves, wildlife damage control agents, special hunt opportunities, non-farmed cervid facilities, gamebird propagation licenses, taxidermy licenses and special permits. He also supervises a human wildlife interaction hotline providing assistance and technical guidance to callers regarding wildlife observations, injured wildlife, and wildlife damage.

Tab Bassett

(Humane Trapping and Handling of Wildlife)

Tad Bassett graduated from NC State University in 1990 with a BS degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Management. He started Triangle Wildlife Removal, Inc. in 1996. They remove nuisance wildlife from residential and commercial settings in and around the Triangle area. They try to do the removal in the most humane ways possible and prefer to trap and relocate animals when possible as opposed to euthanization. They work with the various wildlife rehabilitators in the area and other parts of the state. They currently have 14 employees and a branch office in eastern NC.

Jeffrey Beane

(North Carolina Snakes)

Jeff Beane is Herpetology Collections Manager for the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh, where he has been employed since 1985. A native of Asheboro, Jeff holds a B.S. in Zoology from North Carolina State University (1982) and a Taxidermy Diploma from Montgomery Community College (1983). He is active in many scientific societies, conservation groups, and initiatives. He serves on the North Carolina Amphibian and Reptile Scientific Council and the NC Wildlife Resources Commission's Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee. He has authored many popular and scientific publications, including Amphibians and Reptiles of the Carolinas and Virginia, 2nd Edition (UNC Press, 2010), and is a frequent contributor to Wildlife in North Carolina magazine and North Carolina Wildlife Federation Journal. Jeff received the NC Wildlife Resources Commission's Thomas L. Quay Wildlife Diversity Award (2015) and the NC Wildlife Federation's Governor's Conservation Achievement Award (Wildlife Conservationist of the Year, 2012). His interests include virtually anything pertaining to natural

history or conservation, especially sandhills and longleaf pine ecosystem ecology and the natural history, zoogeography, and conservation of amphibians and reptiles in North Carolina and the Southeast.

James Capps

(Raptor Trapping & Relocation)

James has been with the USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services for the last ten years-having spent eight years in the California program and he has been in NC since 2015. He has been focusing on managing wildlife hazards at airports since 2010 for both the DOD partners (USAF, USN, USMC) and Civil Aviation. Currently, he is a Staff Wildlife Biologist working out of the State Office in Raleigh, coordinating wildlife damage management for Civil Aviation across the state.

Alison Castillo

(Training & Operant Conditioning Lecture & lab)

Alison teaches Zoo Science at Davidson County Community College and serves as Vice President on the Board of Directors for Possumwood Acres Wildlife Sanctuary. Alison has worked with wild species in Europe, America, South America, Malaysia, and Africa, was a primate/lion keeper with the North Carolina Zoo, and specializes in animal behavior and community based conservation. Alison has degrees in Zoo Science (AAS -2010), Physical Anthropology (BA - 2015), and is a graduate of Project Dragonfly's Global Field Program (MA - 2017).

Melissa Coe

(Groundhog Rehabilitation)

In 2003 Melissa founded Piedmont Wildlife Rehab where she continues to act as president. With both her state and federal permit, she has legally rehabbed for nearly 20 years. In addition, Melissa possesses her Environmental Education Certification. She has utilized her love for rehabbing wildlife and passions for animal and environmental education to provide community outreach through various classes. She has worked at Haw River State park as an educator as well as with the American Red Cross for 30 years as a Health and Safety instructor. Her favorite part of wildlife rehabilitation is designing the programs and the research involved when a new/rare species arrives. Melissa's favorite animals to work with include groundhogs, crows, wrens, woodpeckers, and turtles. When she is not instructing or rehabbing, she enjoys music and dancing.

Dr. Ernesto Dominguez

(Handling and Restraint, Advance White-Tail Deer Rehabilitation)

Dr. Ernesto Dominguez grew up in Mexico City. After two years of studies in medical school (2003-2005), he quit med school to follow his dream of becoming a veterinarian. Dr. Ernesto graduated from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) School of Veterinary Medicine in 2013. During his last year of veterinary school, Dr. Ernesto spent some time doing his graduation project in avian orthopedics at the Wildlife Center of Virginia. After getting his degree, he completed different

postgraduate training in wildlife centers and zoos around the world, including the Belize Wildlife and Referral Clinic, Arcas Wildlife Center in Guatemala, The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore, Africam Safari Zoo in Mexico, and the Johannesburg Zoo in South Africa. From September 2015 to June 2016 he completed an internship in Raptor Medicine and Surgery at the Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Ernesto is currently the Hospital Director of the Wildlife Center of Virginia; he is a Certified Wildlife Rehabilitator, and he oversees the medical treatment and rehabilitation of more than 2,600 patients per year.

Christopher S. DePerno, Ph.D

(NCSU Urban Bear Project)

Chris earned a Bachelor of Science from Central Michigan University (1990), a Master of Science from Purdue University (1994), and a doctorate from South Dakota State University (1998). From 1999-2004, he worked as the white-tailed deer senior research scientist for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Since 2004, he has been employed as a Professor and Wildlife Extension Specialist at North Carolina State University. His research interests include population ecology, management, and habitat selection of a variety of species, animal damage management, wildlife and zoonotic diseases, and public education.

Daniel S. Dombrowski, M.S., D.V.M.

(Amphibian Medicine & Rehabilitation)

Dr. Dombrowski is currently the Chief Veterinarian at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences (NCMNS) and Adjunct Faculty at the North Carolina State University (NCSU) College of Veterinary Medicine. In 2006, he earned a D.V.M. from NCSU with a focus in zoo medicine and advanced courses in reptile, fish, invertebrate, avian, and wildlife medicine. In 2006, Dr. Dombrowski also received the Wildlife, Avian, Aquatic, and Zoological Medicine (WAAZM) Proficiency in Zoological Medicine Award. He earned an M.S. in Biology and B.S. in Biology from Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in Richmond Virginia. Dr. Dombrowski has been an author and coauthor of several publications in pharmacology, natural history, and 2 book chapters focusing on invertebrate medicine. His interests include wildlife health and conservation, science education and veterinary medicine.

Maureen Eiger

(All about Feathers, Tip and Tricks on Songbird Care)

Maureen Eiger is the Director of Help Wild Birds; Roanoke's only nonprofit wildlife rehabilitation organization that exclusively rehabs migratory birds. She is a State and Federally Permitted Bird Rehabber and contributing writer to the North American Bluebird Society Journal, The Roanoke Star Newspaper, various Audubon and bird club newsletters and the blog 10,000 Birds. Maureen has been rehabbing birds for over 10 years. She receives hundreds of calls a year from people from all over the country asking for advice to help solve their "bird problems" or answer bird related questions. She also networks with bird rehabbers all across the country.

Maureen is an avid birder and a Virginia Bluebird Society Board Member. She previously was the Vice President of the Roanoke Valley Bird Club. You can say her life is very “birdy.”

Dr. Maria Evola

(Wildlife & Avian/Reptiles Radiology)

Maria Evola is a veterinary radiologist at NC State University. She completed her radiology residency here at NC State before staying on as a clinical veterinarian. She lives in Raleigh with one other human who also works at NC State as a faculty member in the exotic animal medicine service, one perfect goofy mutt, and two gray parrots. She keeps backyard bees and 7 chickens who have accidentally all become pets with names.

James R. Flowers, Ph.D

(Wildlife Parasitology & Fecal Lab)

Dr. Flowers graduated with a Ph. D. in Parasitology from the Zoology Department of North Carolina State University in 1994. He has been a member of the Parasitology Group at the College of Veterinary Medicine since 1997. His main research and interest is in Wildlife Helminth Parasites, their identification, distribution, taxonomy, evolution and ecology.

Nina Fischesser

(Basic Medical Technology for Beginners)

Nina Fischesser has been a licensed rehabilitator since 1991, was the founding WRNC president, and works with Avian, small mammalian, and reptilian native NC species. She holds a MA in Environmental Education and Communication from Royal Roads University in Victoria, BC Canada, and a BA in Therapeutic Recreation from Southern Illinois University. Nina has been employed for 14 years at Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, NC, as Director of the May Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, teaching wildlife rehabilitation and wildlife education through experientially based program as a BS in Wildlife Biology: Concentration Wildlife Rehabilitation. Nina was employed by the North Carolina Outward Bound School as a field instructor for 11 years, and is a strong believer in experiential education through wildlife rehabilitation and wilderness adventure.

Nicholas Gould

(NCSU Urban Bear Project)

Nick received a B.A. in Natural Resource Management and Policy from the University of Massachusetts and an M.S. in Wildlife Biology from Colorado State University. He is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in Wildlife Biology at North Carolina State University. Nick has focused primarily on species of special concern in California, Colorado, North Carolina and Wyoming. His academic background places strong emphasis on question-driven research that applies quantitative methods in ecology in order to understand processes and find solutions to conservation and management challenges. He is a wildlife biologist with emphases in animal

populations and spatial ecology.

Rebekah Harp

Mammal Physical Exam Lab

Rebekah is a third year veterinary student at NC State College of Veterinary Medicine with a focus in small and exotic animal medicine. For the past two years she served as one of the Veterinary Student Liaisons between WRNC and the Vet school. During her undergraduate education she studied wildlife rehabilitation at the Dan and Diane May Wildlife Rehabilitation Center under the tutelage of Nina Fischesser.

Nicole Himebaugh

(Fluid Therapy Lecture & Sub Q Fluid Lab)

Nicole Himebaugh is a second-year veterinary student at NC State College of Veterinary Medicine with interests in wildlife, ophthalmology, and small animal medicine. She is currently the student liaison between the veterinary school and WRNC. Prior to attending veterinary school, Nicole worked as a veterinary assistant at two small animal clinics, interned at Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine's Wildlife Clinic, and volunteered at the Center for Birds of Prey in Awendaw, SC. She also enjoys teaching and held teaching assistant positions in parasitology, biology camps for children, and animal shelter programs.

Melisse Hopping

Opossums, Zoonosis/Sanitation/keeping it clean

Melisse has been a licensed wildlife rehabber for about fifteen years. She teaches parts of the wildlife rehab course at Forsyth Technical Community College, mentors new rehabbers, and is an active member of Wildlife Rehab Inc., a nonprofit local organization of rehabbers and wildlife educators. She lives on about 10 acres in Pfafftown, North Carolina with her husband Jerry (fellow rehabber and cage builder extraordinaire), two dogs, one cat, and 13 chickens.

Rina Jaffe

Turtle Team Tours

Rina Jaffe is a 3rd year veterinary student. She is originally from Piscataway, New Jersey, but has been in Raleigh, North Carolina for 9 years. She has spent a lot of time working with small companion animals, as well as large exotic animals. She fell in love with wildlife medicine upon joining the Turtle Rescue Team in 2016!

Carla Johnson

Handling Wildlife Calls

Carla has been rehabbing for over 21 years, is on the board of WRNC and Wildlife Rehab, Inc., her local rehab group. She has coordinated wildlife rehabilitation classes through the local community college in Winston-Salem, NC and presented countless environmental education programs to the surrounding community. Carla is responsible for maintaining WRNC's membership records, is on the symposium committee and helped put together and teach the refresher course for WRNC. In her spare time, she rescues dogs from puppy mills and natural disaster situations, is the Southeastern Region coordinator, treasurer as well as one of the board of directors for Chihuahua Rescue & Transport, a national 501(c)3 organization and enjoys working to place unwanted Chinese Crested dogs.

Dr. Patricia Jordan

Homeopathy & Flower Essence in Wildlife

Dr. Jordan is a graduate of NC State College of Veterinary Medicine in 1986 after graduating from NC State University in 1982 with Honors. She progressed her veterinary training in Homeopathy through the ANHC (Animal Natural Health Center) with Dr. Richard Pitcairn in both the Professional Basic and Advanced Certification Programs. Dr. Jordan was one of the first veterinarians to become a licensed Chinese Veterinary Medicine Practitioners through Chi Institute with Dr. Xie (Shay) and authored the chapter on treating cancer in animals with Traditional Chinese Medicine. Dr. Jordan also attended Healing Oasis to learn about spinal manipulation in animals. She is certified many times in herbal medicine and has worked as a formulator of natural medicines in an FDA certified facility. While originating six different veterinary facilities in North Carolina over the past 30 years, she has run into many opportunities to employ the aid of homeopathy, herbal, acupuncture, food therapy, massage therapy and soft tissue manipulation in animals, even in wild animals. Today she is going to share the successful implementation of homeopathy and the botanicals like flower essences for wildlife rehab.

Dr. Gregory Lewbart

Turtle Shell Repair, Turtle Medicine and Surgery

Greg has degrees from Gettysburg College, Northeastern University, and the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. He worked for a large wholesaler of ornamental fishes before joining the faculty at the North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1993, where he is Professor of Aquatic Animal Medicine. He is a diplomate of both the American College of Zoological Medicine and the European College of Zoological Medicine, is an author on over 125 popular and scientific articles about invertebrates, fishes, amphibians and reptiles, and speaks locally, nationally and internationally on these subjects. He's also authored or co-authored 25 book chapters and edited or co-edited four veterinary textbooks.

Mary Ann McBride (USDA)

(USDA Rules and Regulations)

Mary Ann McBride, DVM works with USDA APHIS Animal Care. Her territory is North Carolina and includes exhibitors, breeders, brokers and research facilities. She is a North Carolina native and has served as the Assistant State Veterinarian for NC Department of Agriculture and Staff

Veterinarian for USDA APHIS Veterinary Services Professional Development Staff. She has also been in private practice for over 20 years. Her rehab passion is bobcats.

Dr. Amber McNamara

Mammal Necropsy lab

Medication for Wildlife

Dr. Amber McNamara is a graduate of Purdue University’s College of Veterinary Medicine (2003) and the Chi Institute of Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine (2010). Before moving to Banner Elk, North Carolina, she worked at the Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW) in Sanibel, Florida for over 8 years.

Since 2013, she has served as an Assistant Professor of Biology at Lees-McRae College, as well as the veterinarian for the college’s May Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. Courses taught include Environmental Biology, Advanced Clinical Wildlife Rehabilitation, Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy, and Zoonotic Diseases. She enjoys teaching students from a One Health perspective, recognizing that the well-being of humans, animals, and the environment are all connected. In addition, she incorporates complementary modalities such as acupuncture, herbal, and laser therapy with traditional methods to provide the optimum healing environment for patients.

She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Wildlife Rehabilitators of North Carolina.

Emilie Nelson

Illnesses and Ailments in Squirrels

Emilie Nelson has been rehabbing in the Charlotte area for almost 10 years. She and her partner Ryan sold their downtown Charlotte home in 2016 and moved to a home in rural Lincolnton, NC. Together they started NC Wildlife Rehab, a non-profit animal rescue which treated over 700 animals in 2017.

Emilie has been the voice for wildlife protection and conservation in her area and continues to support other group and facilities with her blogs and Facebook posts. Her favorite quote is: “One life can save thousands. Be that one life!”

Betty O’Leary

Avian Physical Exam Lab, Feather Imping, Coping-Making a Beak

Betty has 25 years of raptor experience at Carolina Raptor Center. She worked with birds in rehabilitation and permanent resident birds used for education. She operated a hawk watch and raptor banding station during fall migration at Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge for four years, and assisted with two other stations for 10 years. She enjoys teaching others on raptor rehabilitation and care, and performing necropsies.

Dr. Maria Palamar

(Politics of Wildlife Rehabilitation)

Maria is the Deputy Director of Outreach, Engagement and Wildlife Health at the North Carolina Wildlife

Resources Commission (NCWRC) where she oversees the Wildlife Education division, the Human Dimension program and the Wildlife Health program. Maria was born in Argentina where she obtained a DVM at the National University of Rio Cuarto, she later moved to the US where she pursued a PhD in Wildlife Biology and Conservation at North Carolina State University. Maria has taught numerous biology and pre-med/vet classes and regularly gets invited as guest lecturer for several colleges and courses in NC. Maria started the job of her dreams in 2013, when she was hired by the NCWRC. Maria is married and has two young boys, she enjoys her time in the outdoors and it is passionate about connecting people to nature to ensure a future where the natural world is a top priority for society. Maria loves traveling, meeting new people and discovering new places, she is also a certified yoga teacher (her plan B)

Dr. Olivia Petritz

(Advanced Zoonosis)

Dr. Olivia Petritz is a native of Indiana, and graduated from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Purdue University. She then completed several internships and a three-year exotics, zoo, and wildlife residency at University of California, Davis. She is a boarded diplomate of the American College of Zoological Medicine, and has worked with a large variety of North American wildlife in Indiana, Texas, and California. Dr. Petritz recently joined the faculty at NCSU in their exotics and zoo service, and she looks forward to working with all species in her new state of North Carolina.

Heather Pernel

(Introduction to the Rehabilitation of Eastern Gray Squirrels, Introduction to Rehabilitation)

Heather Pernel is a licensed wildlife rehabber who has spent the last several years focusing on public education and advanced training for new rehabbers. She is currently offering training classes at Wake Tech Community College and is starting a non-profit wildlife rescue in the mountains of western North Carolina. Heather grew up in north Florida out in the country, and while there was no shortage of injured and orphaned wildlife in need, there was a shortage of help. A friendship quickly grew with the local vet and together they did the best they could to help. Her passion to learn more began at that point. Shortly after graduating from high school she earned her vet tech degree and begin working towards her degree in zoology. Heather's hopes are to bring awareness to the public that wildlife rehabilitation exists, as well as to encourage new rehabbers through continued mentoring and training. Heather is thankful for the wonderful mentors she has had along the way.

MaryEllen Rogers

(Pelicans, Wading Birds)

Mary Ellen developed the sea turtle nest protection project on Sullivan’s Island and volunteered at the SC Aquarium. One day a week, she volunteered at the SC Center for Birds of Prey. She is an environmental activist.

Mary Ellen bought the Sea Biscuit beach cottage on Oak Island as a rental investment in 2003. Then she moved in 2 years later. She had retired from real estate and signed up as a volunteer at Ft Fishers Aquarium. She found no local facility for injured birds and decided to start one. She drove to the

Morehead City area every week for over a year in order to gain shorebird experience. State and federal permits were received in March of 2007. Veterinary assistance is donated by local doctors. A team of transporters bring injured birds to the clinic. She returned to part time employment in order to support her new career in wildlife care. Donations finance the shelters day to day expenses and grants take care of capital improvements.

David Scott, DVM

(Avian Necropsy Lab, Raptor Pesticide Study)

Dr. Scott graduated from the veterinary school at the University of Illinois in 1997. He is currently the staff veterinarian at the Carolina Raptor Center in Charlotte. He recently published "The Handbook of Raptor Rehabilitation" and is the developer of the RaptorMed patient management system.

Dr. Greg Scott (NC Zoo)

(Emergency Reptile Care)

Dr. Scott is a graduate of NC State CVM in the class of 2012, and a past president of the Turtle Rescue Team. After veterinary school, he completed two internships. One in exotic animal medicine and another in aquatics and marine mammal medicine. He has worked as veterinarian in private practice and in public aquaria. He is now currently in his first year of a zoological medicine residency at NC State.

Dr. Joni Shimp

(Creance-Raptor on a Leash lecture, Creance lab)

Dr. Joni Shimp went to the University of Minnesota for her undergraduate degree and North Carolina State University for her Veterinary Degree. She works full time in her mixed animal veterinary hospital in Rocky Point, and she operates a small, but thriving Raptor Rehabilitation Center out of the veterinary hospital. The Cape Fear Raptor Center provides surgical and medical care to raptors that benefit from specific treatments that are limited to a veterinary setting. Her vision for the future is to be a resource to local rehabilitators who have raptors that have extensive injuries with the goal to treat and repair, and then return them to the original rehabilitator.

David Scott, DVM

(Avian Necropsy Lab, Raptor Pesticide Study)

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Jackie Wylie

(Basic Cottontail Rehabilitation for the Beginner)

Jackie has her NC Wildlife permit for small mammals. She has been rehabilitating small mammals since

2007. Jackie retired from Nationwide Insurance in October. She now works at All Breed Care in her dream job as a dog walker and pet sitter.