

# Yaiyr Astudillo-Scalia

School of Life Sciences at Arizona State University  
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## EDUCATION

### **Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ**

Environmental Life Sciences PhD Program

- Expected graduation: May 2018

### **Harry S. Truman College, Chicago, IL**

A.A. Degree with High Honors, 2010

- Presidential Honors List, 2010

### **Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL**

B.S. Degree in Biology and Music Minor, 2012

- Dean's Honors List, 2011

### **Landmark Education, Chicago, IL**

Communication and Leadership Programs, 2000-2010

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### **International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Cetacean Red List Re-assessment Support (as part of Arizona State University's Center for Biodiversity Outcomes), Tempe, AZ**

*Graduate Researcher*, Summer 2015 – Present

- Cetacean Specialist Group support in the re-assessment process for IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species.

### **Dissertation Research Project**

*Graduate Researcher*, Summer 2015 – Present

- Study of current anthropogenic causes of cetacean mortality around the world.

### **Dissertation Research Project (in Collaboration with Prescott College), Kino Bay, Mexico**

*Graduate Researcher*, Spring 2015 – Present

- Assessment of current spatial-temporal distribution and behavior patterns of bottlenose dolphins in the Midriff Islands of the Gulf of California.

### **Dissertation Research Project (in Collaboration with Whale Trust), Maui, HI**

*Graduate Researcher*, Spring 2014 – Present

- Study of humpback whale hormone levels and their relationship to reproductive behavior and whale song.

### **Southwest Fisheries Science Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), San Diego, CA**

*Independent Observer (#358)*, Summer 2014

- California Current Cetacean Ecosystem Assessment Survey (CalCurCEAS 2014) research cruise observer and oceanographic research support during leg 1.

### **Global Sustainability Solutions Center, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ**

*Fisheries Audit Analyst*, Summer 2013 – Fall 2013

- Sustainability audit of environmental and social aspects relating to Pacific Andes' Peruvian fisheries operations.

### **Post-Baccalaureate Research Education Program (PREP), University of Chicago, Chicago, IL**

*PREP Scholar/Research Technician*, Summer 2012 – Summer 2013

- Isotopic analysis of nitrogen cycle data in near-shore vs. deep waters off the coast of WA, and statistical analysis of nitrogen cycle data in marine systems worldwide, under the direction of Dr. C. Pfister.

**Student Center for Science Engagement (SCSE) Research Program, Northeastern Illinois University,**  
Chicago, IL

*Research Technician*, Summer 2011 – Summer 2012

- Performed research on cattail plants through the use of ecological as well as molecular techniques under the direction of Dr. Pamela Geddes, Dr. Joel Olfelt, and Dr. Aaron Schirmer.
- Accountable for training new Research Technicians through direct mentoring.
- Compiled all field and molecular protocols into an electronic handbook.

**Biology Department, Northeastern Illinois University,** Chicago, IL

*Lab Technician*, Summer 2011 – Spring 2012

- Responsible for the preparation and management of departmental lab courses (48 sections per semester).
- Performed other tasks pertaining to lab facilities such as chemical/hazardous waste disposal as well as equipment inventory, repair and management.

**Volunteer Program, John G. Shedd Aquarium,** Chicago, IL

*Volunteer*, Summer 2004 – Summer 2011

- Marine Mammals Department: animal husbandry care and supportive animal training tasks (competitive position).

**SPECIALIZED TRAINING**

- 2016: IUCN Red List Assessor Certification and Species Information Service (SIS) data entry.
- 2014: Hormone extraction and analysis from cetacean blubber samples. Lab of N. Kellar at NOAA-SWFSC.

**FUNDING**

- 2016: Whale Tales Beneficiary. Whale Trust Maui. (Amount TBD).
- 2015: Research Grant. Whale Trust Maui. \$2,500.
- 2015: School of Life Sciences Graduate Student Scholarship. Arizona State University. \$1,000.
- 2015: Research and Training Initiatives Field Work Fellowship. Arizona State University. \$1,500.
- 2014: Research and Training Initiatives Training Fellowship. Arizona State University. \$2,500.
- 2013-2014: Dean's Fellowship Award. Arizona State University. \$10,000.

**AWARDS**

- Award of Recognition for 10 years of Volunteer Service. John G. Shedd Aquarium 2015, Chicago, IL.
- Award-Winning Poster (Biology-Botany). Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science National Conference 2012, Seattle, WA.
- Award of Merit in Recognition of Outstanding Research. NEIU's 20th Annual Student Research & Creative Activities Symposium 2012, Chicago, IL.
- Second Place "Best Oral Presentation" Award (Biology). Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Conference 2012, Chicago, IL.
- "Best Poster Presentation" Award (Biology-General). Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science National Conference 2011, San José, CA.
- Recipient of Travel Scholarship Award for the 2011 SACNAS National Conference in San José, CA.

**PRESENTATIONS**

- Astudillo-Scalia Y., J. Darling, M. Jones, and L. Gerber. 2016. Hormones as a tool to unveil the humpback whale reproductive system. Whale Tales Conference, Maui, HI (Oral presentation).
- Astudillo-Scalia Y. and C. Pfister. 2013. A Study of Ammonium Oxidation and Nitrification Rates in Marine Systems Worldwide. University of Chicago's 8th Annual PREP Symposium, Chicago, IL (Oral presentation).

- Astudillo-Scalia Y., S. D. Wunderle, P. Geddes, J. Olfelt, and A. Schirmer. 2012. Intra-Population Variability in Microsatellite Markers for Cattail Species. National Conference of the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS), Seattle, WA (Poster presentation).
- Blasini, D., M. Rios, Y. Astudillo-Scalia, P. Geddes, and J. Olfelt. 2012. Geographic Variation in Microsatellite Markers from Cattail Plant Species throughout the Midwest. National Conference of the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS), Seattle, WA (Poster presentation).
- Astudillo-Scalia Y., S. D. Wunderle, P. Geddes, J. Olfelt, and A. Schirmer. 2012. Intra-Population Variability in Microsatellite Markers of Cattail Species. Ivy-Plus Stem Symposium & Workshops for Diverse Scholars. Philadelphia, PA (Poster presentation).
- Astudillo-Scalia Y., J. Shaier, S. Wunderle, P. Geddes, J. Olfelt, and A. Schirmer. 2012. Use of Microsatellites in the Identification of Hybridizing Cattail Species in the Typha Genus (*T. angustifolia*, *T. latifolia*, and *T. x glauca*). Wisconsin Wetlands Association (WWA), Lake Geneva, WI (Poster presentation).
- Astudillo-Scalia Y. 2012. Like Clownfish and Anemones: Exploring the Symbiotic Relationship of Tutoring. Chicagoland Writing Centers Association's Winter Gathering at DePaul University, Chicago, IL (Round Robin workshop).
- Astudillo-Scalia Y., J. Shaier, S. Wunderle, P. Geddes, J. Olfelt, and A. Schirmer. 2012. From Genes to Ecosystems: Using microsatellite markers to identify problematic invasive species. Spring Symposium and Student Research in STEM, Illinois Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (IL-LSAMP), Chicago, IL (Oral presentation).
- Astudillo-Scalia Y., J. Shaier, S. Wunderle, P. Geddes, J. Olfelt, and A. Schirmer. 2011. Use of Microsatellites in the Identification of Hybridizing Cattail Species in the Typha Genus (*T. angustifolia*, *T. latifolia*, and *T. x glauca*). National Conference of the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS), San José, CA (Poster presentation).
- Astudillo-Scalia Y., J. Shaier, S. Wunderle, P. Geddes, J. Olfelt, and A. Schirmer. 2011. Use of Microsatellites in the Identification of Hybridizing Cattail Species in the Typha Genus (*T. angustifolia*, *T. latifolia*, and *T. x glauca*). Student Center for Science Engagement Research Symposium, NEIU, Chicago, IL (Oral presentation).

## **TEACHING AND OUTREACH EXPERIENCE**

### **School of Life Sciences, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ**

*Teaching Assistant*, Fall 2013- Present

- Teaching 2-3 laboratory sections (48-72 students) for the General Biology II course.

### **Ask a Biologist, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ**

*Writer*, Fall 2013 – Present

- Responding to K-12 level student questions in marine biology topics.

### **Underwater Fantasea Exhibit, i.d.e.a. Museum, Mesa, AZ**

*Featured Marine Scientist*, Spring 2016

- Provided information and Photo-ID materials from my bottlenose dolphin project as content for the new marine-themed exhibit, and participated as an Expert during their Family Day outreach activities.

### **Graduate Partners in Science Education, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ**

*Science Tutor*, Fall 2013 – Spring 2015

- Teaching after school programs at local K-12 level schools of underrepresented minorities.

### **Campanas de Esperanza, WWFE "La Poderosa" 670 AM Radio Station, Miami, FL**

*Interviewee*, Summer 2014

- Addressed current issues in fisheries, cetacean ecology and conservation science to an audience encompassing South Florida and the Caribbean. More than 100,000 radios tune in to listen to this program.

**Volunteer Program, John G. Shedd Aquarium, Chicago, IL**

*Volunteer*, Summer 2004 – Summer 2014

- Special Events: responsible for Q and A of animal collections as well as other guest services.
- Shedd Stewards Program: stewardship activities with middle and high school students (Education Department; Fall 2012 – Present).

**Educación a su Alcance Campaign, Telemundo, Washington, DC and Chicago, IL**

*Featured Student*, Summer 2012

- Interviewed as one of the featured successful Hispanic students from NEIU in order to encourage Hispanic enrollment in STEM careers as part of Telemundo's "Education at your Reach" campaign.

**CTC Summer Academy, Chicago Teacher's Center, Chicago, IL**

*Student Presenter*, Summer 2012

- Presented an overview of our research on cattails to 8th grade students to encourage participation in STEM careers.

**SACNAS @ NEIU Chapter, Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL**

*Vice President*, Spring and Summer 2012

- Managed Chapter meetings and activities as well as insured compliance with regulations and filing of reports to keep the Chapter active and in good standing.
- Created Google group and Chapter website for networking of all SACNAS members in Chicagoland.

**Center for Academic Writing, Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL**

*Peer Tutor for the Writing Intensive Program in Biology*, Spring 2012

- Selected by Biology faculty to join peer-tutoring program at NEIU's Center of Academic Writing.
- Received extensive training on tutoring techniques and aspects pertaining to the discipline.
- Tutored 3 sections of General Ecology (WIP), reaching approximately 72 students.

**Congressman Mike Quigley Visit, Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL**

*Student Tour Guide*, Spring 2012

- Was selected by faculty to serve as a tour guide to Congressman Mike Quigley of NEIU's lab facilities, newly renovated thanks to his support.

**Student Interview Committee, Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL**

*Student Interviewer*, Spring 2012

- Selected by faculty to interview candidates for new faculty positions at the Biology Department

**Chicago Public Schools Regional Science Fair, Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL**

*Judge*, Spring 2012

- Judged the North-Northwest side High School Network students participating in the science fair.

**ALAS Afterschool Program, Chicago Teachers Center, Chicago, IL**

*Tutor*, Spring 2008

- Tutored biology, chemistry and writing to high school students at Morton East High School, Cicero, IL.

**OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE**

**Translator and Interpreter, Freelance**

Spring 2005 - Present

- Perform written translations (English-Spanish) of business documents and TV show scripts for Southrise TV, Ltd. (Fall 2014 – Spring 2015).

- Interpretation services for English-Spanish speakers, including school board and parent meetings, and group leadership courses.

**Marketing Department, Landmark Education, Chicago, IL**

*Marketing Assistant, Summer 2008 – Summer 2009*

- Successfully managed a team of 5 people responsible for the administrative aspects of an international best seller book campaign, helping put Landmark's first book on the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Business Week and USA Today Best Seller Lists.
- Managed promotional projects for offered courses, including customer service via phone, email, and in person.
- Team Manager accountable for progress reporting; all bilingual services and working in partnership with centers worldwide.

**OTHER SERVICE**

**Ecological Society of America**

*Journal Reviewer, Fall 2013 – Present*

**LANGUAGES**

Bilingual (English/Spanish) and fluent in Portuguese

**REFERENCES**

Leah R. Gerber, PhD. Professor

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