Kyra Lynn McClelland
kyralynn@uw.edu | +1 (704) 661-7578

Field & Research Experience

University of Washington, Seattle *Oct 2021 – Dec 2023; Jan 2026 – Present*

- Graduate Researcher and Teaching Assistant.
- Funding secured: $46,785.
- Analyzed telemetry data from African savanna elephants after a large-scale translocation event.
- Extracted and analyzed DNA, cortisol, and thyroid hormone from dung or ivory.
- Characterizing migratory behaviors of whooping cranes in relation to climate change and agricultural development.

California State University, Long Beach *Aug 2018 – Aug 2021*

- Graduate Researcher and Teaching Assistant.
- Funding secured: $7,050.
- Designed and implemented a study to assess the impacts of habitat characteristics such as fragmentation and elevation on rodent habitat use and trophic niche space in a southern California tidal salt marsh.
- Worked collaboratively with US Fish and Wildlife Services at the Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge to develop habitat restoration strategies.
- Conducted surveys of various coastal and estuarine fish, birds, invertebrates, and plants.

Cetus Research and Conservation Society *Jun 2017 – Aug 2017*

- Intern: 40 hours/week, unpaid.
- Monitored impacts of vessels within a 1-kilometer radius of mammal and fish-eating killer whales from small vessels in the Salish Sea.
- Reported serious violations of marine mammal protections to the Canadian Wildlife Service.

Cascadia Research Collective *Sep 2016 – Dec 2016*

- Intern: 40 hours/week, unpaid.
- Completed individual identification of marine mammals, specifically humpback, blue, and gray whales, using a digital catalogue.
- Assisted with necropsies of reported marine mammals to identify cause of death.

Skills & Abilities

Computer: R (RMarkdown, Tidyverse), PRIMER v7, Microsoft 365 (Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint), ArcGIS.

- ***Relevant coursework:*** Advance Statistics, Fundamentals of Data Visualization in R, Introduction to GIS, Introduction to Quantitative Ecology.

Field: Small rodent trapping and identification, fish sampling (seine, cast net, trawl) and identification, invertebrate/infaunal collection and identification, bird survey, marine mammal identification and survey, wetland delineation, kayaking/canoeing, all-terrain driving.

- ***Relevant coursework:*** Animal Physiology, Ecological Field Methods, Biological Oceanography, Large Marine Mammalogy, Invertebrate Zoology, Behavioral Ecology, Aquatic Toxicology, Freshwater Ecology, Ecology of Marine Communities, Research Design and Ethics, Wetlands and Mangrove Ecology, Ocean Kayaking.

Lab: Infaunal invertebrate sorting and identification, stable isotope preparation, DNA extraction and processing, hormone extraction and processing (EIA/ELISA).

Education

University of Washington, Seattle | Biology PhD — *Jan 2026 – Present*

- 4.0 GPA, 36 semester hours.
- Thesis: "Effects of upland habitat access on distribution and diets of a rodent community in a Southern California tidal marsh"

California State University, Long Beach | Biology MS — *Aug 2018 – Aug 2021*

- 4.0 GPA, 36 semester hours.
- Thesis: "Effects of upland habitat access on distribution and diets of a rodent community in a Southern California tidal marsh"

University of California, Santa Cruz | Marine Biology BS — *Sep 2012 – Jun 2016*

- 3.47 GPA, 216 quarter hours.
- Assisted with necropsies of reported marine mammals to identify cause of death.

Presentations

CERF Rising TIDES Conference — *Nov 2021*

- Presentation: Effects of upland habitat access on distribution and diets of a southern Californian rodent community, Kyra McClelland and Christine Whitcraft, PhD

Southern California Academy of Sciences Annual Conference — *May 2021*

- Presentation: Effects of upland habitat access on distribution and diets of a rodent community in a southern California tidal marsh, Kyra McClelland and Christine Whitcraft, PhD

The Wildlife Society, Western Section Annual Meeting — *Feb 2020*

- Poster presentation: Salt marsh characteristics and rodent ecology in southern California, Kyra McClelland and Christine Whitcraft, PhD

Awards & Grants

Research Award	Great Plains Conservation Foundation	$17,200	Jun 2023
Robert T. Paine Experimental Award	UW Biology Department	$10,000	Mar 2023
Summer Institute in Statistical Genetics	UW School of Public Health	$2,085 (3 modules)	Jul 2022
Rising TIDES Conference Award	Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation	$800	Jul 2021
ARCS Fellowship	Achievement Rewards for College Scientists	$17,500	Apr 2021
Student Research Grant	Southern California Academy of Sciences	$2,000	Apr 2019
Research Award	Richard B. Loomis	$1,250	Apr 2019
Research Grant in Marine Biology	Donald J. Reish	$1,000	Apr 2019
Graduate Research Grant	SCTC Marine Biology Educational Scholarship Foundation	$2,000	Apr 2019
	Total Funding Secured	**$53,835**	

Teaching Experience

Teaching Experience

UW Biology 200 Instructional Supervisor — *Mar 2024 – Dec 2025*

- Optimized efficiency of teaching team and prioritized efforts that most strongly impacted student learning.

UW Biology 200 Co-Instructional Supervisor — *Jan 2024 – Mar 2024*

Teaching Assistant (iterations in parenthesis)

- UW Biology 180: Introduction to Ecology and Evolution (1)
- UW Biology 200: Introduction to Molecular Biology (4)
- UW Biology 434: Invertebrate Zoology (3)
- CSULB Biology 260: Biostatistics (2)
- CSULB Biology 211: Introduction to Evolution and Diversity (1)

Pedagogical Development

- UW Biology 505: Evidence-Based Teaching in Biology – Teaching for Equity in STEM
- UW Biology 508: Developing Evidence-Based Instructional Materials and Teaching Strategies

Student Evaluations

Question: What aspects of this class contributed most to your learning?

UW Biology 180 Student:

> *"The actual labs themselves as well as Kyra's explanations of the labs, I felt they did a much better job at describing the lab than the lab manual. She was also extremely kind and was able to help with any problem my group had faced, which I found very helpful. The welcoming environment contributed a lot to my learning."*

UW Biology 200 Student:

> *"Everything was always really well-explained and well-demonstrated in lab. Kyra was always available to answer questions. It's really hard for me to get science concepts, so having someone who was willing to explain things, and did so in a way I could understand, really helped."*

UW Biology 434 Student:

> *"Honestly it was Kyra! Probably one of the most helpful TAs I've had. She's very understanding and is always there when you have questions or need help identifying something. In addition, I liked how the class was accessible outside of lab and if I couldn't attend Kyra had posted images for us students to draw."*

Volunteer Experience

Academic Service (iterations in parenthesis)

UW Biology Undergraduate Awards Review Panel (3)
UW Biology Graduate Awards Panel (1)
Graduate Student Biology Society *Aug 2019 – Jun 2021*

- Social and membership chair

Society for Wetland Scientists *Jan 2019 – Dec 2019*

- Secretary for the Southern California Student Chapter

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Office of Graduate Student Equity & Excellence *Dec 2022 – Dec 2023*

- Outreaching Graduate

Extracurricular

Camp Abilities *Oct 2016*

- Acted as a human guide for visually impaired children. Assisted children playing various sports as a guide.

Seymour Marine Discovery Center *Sep 2014 – Jun 2016*

- Managed small animals such as swell sharks, hermit crabs, and seastars. Educated community members of all ages about ocean conservation, sustainability, and coastal marine life within the Monterey Bay area.