**Educational Background**

**Princeton University, 2 week molecular biology course**

Certificate of Completion July, 2013

**Western Governors University**, UT; Masters of Secondary Science education 5-12

Graduated April, 2013.

**Texas A&M University at Galveston**, TX; Marine Biology BS,

Graduated May 2006, *Cum Laude*.

**Work Experience**

2010-present: **AP Biology, and AP Environmental Science Teacher, Sam Rayburn High School, Pasadena ISD, TX**

• Teach 10th through 12th grade AP biology and AP Environmental Science students collegeboard approved curriculum. Use the following technologies in my classroom: vernier probeware, promethean board with active expressions, graphing calculators, various computer software and programs, microscopes, and gel electrophoresis apparatuses.

• **Have produced over 100 educational videos for AP biology, APES, and STAAR biology,** and piloted a complete flipped classroom model with videos recorded by myself, or Paul Anderson in my

AP and Pre-AP biology courses as well as my AP Environmental science course.

• Have the highest pass rates in the entire district for AP biology with a 25% increase in scores each year

• Provided a district-wide training on how to flip the classroom as well as record video lectures.

• Coordinator of Academic UIL • NHS Sponsor

• Academic Pals coordinator • Envirothon coach

• Science UIL Coach • Computer science UIL coach

• Social studies UIL Coach • Spelling UIL coach

• Sponsor of Academic Excellence Awards

2013-Present: **Producer of online educational videos**

• Have personally produced over 100 video lectures for AP biology, AP Environmental science, STAAR biology, and on level environmental science. These are used by teachers in the district as well as around the United States. Youtube station: (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCO7OfGz2T5UNcAbIFiBDD_g>)

Summer 2014: **Skipper of Dusky Dolphin Research vessel** **and member of the Dusky Dolphin Research Team, Kaikoura, New Zealand**

• Skippered (captained) the Kiko Rangi research vessel, drove the boat, navigated using the GPS as well as drove the vessel with pods of up to 300 dolphins so the PI could tag them from the boat. Helped collect focal follow data. Trained future masters student how to drive, dock, and load and unload the boat from the trailer.

2007-2010: **Pre-AP** **Science teacher, Channelview ISD, TX**

• Taught 8th grade Pre-AP and level science students, body systems, cell biology, earth science, and chemistry. Directed and held science fair, junior college tutoring, TAKS tutoring, fund raising. Organized and raised funds to award a student a scholarship to a week-long science camp of their choice at Texas A&M. Organized and raised funds for NASA trip. Hosted RAD, (rape awareness and defense) training for faculty and staff members. Nominated for new teacher of the year.

2006-2007: **Lab Technician/Lab Manager Gastroenterology Lab at UTMB**

• Used fluorescent imaging to determine effects of various chemicals on prostate Cancer, maintained cell lines (fed, rinsed, thinned and split cell lines), ran PCR, Electrophoresis gels, and western blots. Entered and processed data, managed the laboratory (ordered supplies, took inventory, arranged lab meetings). In Charge of teaching high school student interns cell culture techniques, UTMB Galveston, Texas.

2006-2007: **Lab Tech; Marine Mammal Research Program, Behavioral Ecology Lab**

 • Traced, matched, and assigned dusky dolphin, *Lagenorhynchus obscurus*,

 Dorsal fins to categories using the program Finscan, MMRP BEL Galveston,

 Texas

2006: **Field Research Assistant; New Zealand Dusky Dolphin Project**

 • Determined behavior, recorded focal follows, and described 0,1 interval data on dusky dolphins, *Lagenorhynchus obscurus*. Learned to maneuver a vessel in the vicinity of dolphins, and marked bow-riding duskies with zinc oxide. Tracked duskies from shore by surveyor's transit, or theodolite, and learned the computer program Pythagoras; French Pass, Marlborough Sounds New Zealand

2006: **Research Assistant; Sea Turtle Project**

• Handled and restrained loggerhead turtles *Caretta caretta* while measurements were made, and

 Collected data on bite force. Turtle Barn, Galveston, TX

2005: **Field Assistant; Georgia Aquarium Animal Acquisition**

* Helped catch, revive, and transport scalloped hammerhead sharks**,** *Sphyrna lewini*, to be on display at the Georgia aquarium, Atlanta GA

2004: **Research Assistant**; **Functional Morphology Laboratory, Texas A&M University at Galveston**

* Supervisor: Brian Bloodworth (MS student)
* Helped collect data on the feeding of bottlenose dolphins, *Tursiops truncatus,* to be used for motion analysis of feeding*,* at Sea World San Antonio, TX

2003-2004: **Texas Institute of Oceanography Undergraduate Research Grant Fellow,** **Galveston, TX**.

* Investigated the microstructure and innervation of the vibrissal follicle-sinus complex in the Bearded Seal, *Erignathus barbatus* along with the hyolingual musculature using histological techniques, morphometric measurements, and gross dissections.
* Research was conducted in Dr. Marshall’s Functional Morphology Laboratory

2003: **Research Assistant, Dr. Christopher Marshall’s Ecological Morphology Lab**, **Galveston, TX**.

* Performed gross dissections of the hyolingual complex of bearded seals. Investigated the innervation and microstructure of vibrissae of weddell seals,*Leptonychotes wedellii* and bearded seals.

**Awards, Recognition, and Certifications**

2015 **AVID II certification**

2015 **AP Environmental Science Training** from Rice University

2014 **AP Biology Training** from Rice University

2014 **Teacher of the year award**, given to me by my students

2013 **AP Biology Training** from Rice University

2013 **Molecular biology training** from Princeton University

2012 **Vernier probeware training** from Vernier

2011 **AP Biology Certification** from Rice University

2010 **Gifted and Talented and Pre-AP certification** from Rice University

2006 **Graduated *Cum Laude*** from Texas A&M University at Galveston

2002-06 **Academic Excellence Scholarship** Texas A&M University at Galveston

2004 **Texas Institute of Oceanography Undergraduate Research Fellowship**, Comparison of the Hyolingual Complex and Sensory Systems of Bearded Seals (*Erignathus barbatus*) and the Domestic Cat (*Felis domesticus*), $3000.

**Professional Publications/Presentations**

**January 2014: District trainer for the Flipped classroom.**

 **•** Presented “How to Effectively Flip Your Classroom” during a district wide training. Familiarized teachers with how to use Edmodo, create video lectures, upload them to youtube and link them to Edmodo accounts.

Heidi L. Amin, Heidi C. Pearson, and Bernd Würsig. 2007 Leaping behavior is related to increase in group size and feeding behavior of dusky dolphins (*Lagenorhynchus obscurus*) in Admiralty Bay, New Zealand Society of Marine

Mammalogy Conference, Capetown, Africa. 2007

C.D. Marshal, H. Amin, Kovacs, K., and C. Lydersen. 2006. Microstructure and Innervation of the Vibrissal Follicle-Sinus Complex in the Bearded Seal, *Erignathus barbatus* (Pinnipedia: Phocidae). Anatomical Record 288(1):13-25.

**References**

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Kayla Platt, Pre-AP biology teacher, Sam Rayburn High School, 2121 Cherrybrook Lane, Pasadena, Texas 77502; Phone: 281-989-9883; Email: kplatt@pasadenaisd.org

Dr. Christopher Marshall, Department of Marine Biology, Texas A&M University at Galveston; 5007 Avenue U, Galveston, Texas 77551; Phone: 409-740-4884; Email: marshalc@tamug.edu

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