

# RYAN S. ALMEIDA B.S.

MS Student

School of Natural Resources and the Environment, The University of Arizona  
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## EDUCATION

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**The University of Arizona**, Tucson, AZ Degree in Progress

*MS Natural Resources, Wildlife Conservation and Management*, School of Natural Resources and the Environment

- Dissertation: Effects of anthropogenic noise on banner-tailed kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys spectabilis*) acoustic communication
- First year completed at Northern Arizona University prior to advisor transfer to The University of Arizona

**The University of Texas at Austin**, Austin, TX May 2020

*Bachelor of Science in Biology, Track I: Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior*, College of Natural Sciences

- Overall GPA: 3.7
- *Minor in Business*, McCombs School of Business
- 18 credit hours of additional coursework

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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- The evolution and function of animal communication
- Acoustic and multimodal animal communication in a social and noisy world
- Anthropogenic impacts on wildlife
- Animal social behavior and tradeoffs that come with living in a social setting
- Environmental and species conservation
- Scientific community engagement and public outreach
- Scientific communication and presentation

## HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS

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- Recipient of The University of Arizona Graduate College Fellowship, \$1300 August 2022
- Recipient of Grant-in-Aid of Research from the American Society of Mammalogists, \$1500 May 2022
- Elected as Special Committee Representative for the NAU Biology Graduate Student Association September 2021
- Nominated for outstanding undergraduate teaching assistant award May 2020
- Half-time Freshman Research Initiative Summer Research Fellowship, \$1500 May 2016
- Accepted into the DIY Diagnostics Freshman Research Initiative stream at UT Austin December 2015
- Accepted into the Freshman Research Initiative program at UT Austin June 2015

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Dr. Bret Pasch lab**, Flagstaff, AZ / Tucson, AZ September 2021 - Present

*MS Student*

- Acoustic communication, behavioral ecology, and conservation in small mammals
- Study the effects of acoustic anthropogenic noise on banner-tailed kangaroo rat communication for species conservation and management purposes
- Work with the Mount Graham red squirrel conservation project by conducting quarterly surveys and contributing to long-term data on this endangered species

- Dr. Steve Phelps lab**, Austin, TX September 2019 - May 2020  
*Undergraduate Researcher*
- Extracted DNA from field prairie vole tissue samples for next-generation sequencing and use in paternity analyses to help understand the relationship between genotype, the brain, behavior, and fitness
- Dr. Mike Ryan lab**, Austin, TX September 2018 - May 2020  
*Undergraduate Researcher*
- Analyzed images of sectioned and stained female túngara frog brains using ImageJ to search for auditory-visual integration of male sexual signals
- DIY Diagnostics Individual Research Project Seminar**, Austin, TX May 2016 - December 2016  
*Undergraduate Researcher*
- Studied the link between contact sports and chronic brain trauma among youth athletes and developed a smart phone application for non-medically trained parents/coaches to quickly diagnose concussions
- DIY Diagnostics Lab: Freshman Research Initiative**, Austin, TX January 2016 - May 2016  
*Undergraduate Researcher*
- Conducted trials for experimental water quality, DNA testing, and Zika virus diagnostic tools to generate data to support the practical use of these instruments/protocols
- Freshman Research Initiative**, Austin, TX August 2015 - December 2015  
*Undergraduate Researcher*
- Investigated the antibacterial effects of coconut oil against the bacteria *Staphylococcus epidermidis* to address bacterial resistance to standard medical antibiotics

## PRESENTATIONS

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- Northern Arizona University**, Flagstaff, AZ December 2021  
*Graduate Student*
- Thesis proposal presentation: Effects of anthropogenic noise on banner-tailed kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys spectabilis*) communication
- The University of Texas at Austin**, Austin, TX December 2019  
*Undergraduate Student*
- Ecological factors influencing the foraging behavior of the nine-banded armadillo (*Dasypus novemcinctus*)
- The University of Texas at Austin**, Austin, TX December 2019  
*Undergraduate Student*
- Substrate preferences of acorn barnacles (*Balanus glandula*)

## MENTORSHIP/TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- Northern Arizona University**, Flagstaff, AZ January 2022 - May 2022  
*Graduate Instructor*, Department of Biological Sciences
- Graduate lab instructor for 3 sections of NAU course: BIO 201L – Human Anatomy and Physiology I Lab
- Northern Arizona University**, Flagstaff, AZ September 2021 - December 2021  
*Graduate Instructor*, Department of Biological Sciences
- Graduate lab instructor for 3 sections of NAU course: BIO 181L – Unit of Life I Laboratory
- The University of Texas at Austin**, Austin, TX January 2020 - May 2020  
*Undergraduate Teaching Assistant*, Department of Integrative Biology
- Undergraduate teaching assistant for UT Austin course: BIO 311D – Introduction to mechanisms of inheritance, evolution, physiology, and species interactions

## NON-RESEARCH PROFESSIONAL/PAID EXPERIENCE

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**American Medical Response**, Dallas, TX / Austin, TX June 2016 - August 2021  
*Emergency Medical Technician - Basic*

## MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

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**American Society of Mammalogists**, Tucson, AZ February 2022 - Present  
*Student Member*

**Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity Chapter at UT Austin**, Austin, TX August 2015 - May 2020  
*Member; Dallas area recruitment officer, Community Outreach Committee member*

**Longhorn Emergency Medical Services**, Austin, TX September 2015 - May 2017  
*Emergency Medical Technician – Basic, member*

## VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH EXPERIENCE

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**NAU Biology Graduate Student Association (BGSA)**, Flagstaff, AZ September 2021 - August 2022  
*Special Committee Representative*

**North Texas Food Bank**, Plano, TX August 2011 - August 2021  
*Volunteer*

**Allen Fire Department (AFD)** June 2015 - May 2019  
*Civilian Rider and Volunteer*

## PAST/CURRENT CERTIFICATIONS AND OTHER COURSES

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**Working with the IACUC CITI course** September 2021

**Working with Mice in Research Settings CITI course** September 2021

**Wildlife CITI course** September 2021

**Responsible Conduct of Research CITI course** September 2021

**Working With Animals in Biomedical Research** September 2021

**Emergency Medical Technician (EMT-B) certification** August 2015 - Present

- National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians
- Texas Department of State Health Services

**CPR: Healthcare Provider certification** August 2014 - Present

- American Heart Association

**Nurse Assistant certification** February 2014 - February 2016

- Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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### Skills

- Animal auditory brainstem response (ABR) using Tucker Davis Technologies (TDT) protocols
- Animal digital ABR waveform analysis using TDT software
- Animal acoustic recording and digital spectrogram analysis using Avisoft software
- Endangered species population management and inter-agency plot transect surveys (Mount Graham red squirrel)
- Small mammal trapping with Sherman traps, including mice, squirrels, and kangaroo rats
- Able to handle and identify amphibians and reptiles native to Texas
- Able to extract and isolate DNA from tissue samples
- Able to analyze and interpret DNA samples using gel electrophoresis

- Proficient using ImageJ to analyze stained tissue slides
- Proficient in MS Word, MS PowerPoint, and MS Excel
- Proficient with RStudio statistical software
- Comfortable speaking and presenting in front of audiences

**Languages**

- Native fluency in English
- Basic fluency in Spanish

**Personal Interests**

- ice hockey, soccer, golf, piano, and drums

**Work Eligibility**

- Eligible to work in the U.S. without restrictions