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## Education:

**University of Texas at Austin, Jackson School of Geosciences, Austin TX;**  
August 2012–Present; Advisor: Dr. Julia A Clarke  
Graduate Student (Ph.D.)–Expected May 2017

**University of California at Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara CA;**  
September 2008–June 2012  
B.S. Zoology; B.S. Earth Science-Paleobiology Emphasis

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## Grants & Honors:

- NSF: Graduate Research Fellowship-2013-2017
- Jackson School of Geosciences: NSF Fellowship Award-2013-2017
- UT Austin School of Graduate Studies: Dean's Fellowship-2015, 2016
- Paleontological Society: Research Grant-2013
- Jackson School of Geosciences: Summer Research Grant-2013
- Jackson School of Geosciences: Lundelius Endowed Research Grant-2013
- UC Santa Barbara: Whitney Endowed Scholarship-2012
- UC Santa Barbara: Woodhouse Award in Geosciences-2012
- UC Santa Barbara: Colville & Dearborn Memorial Award-2012
- Coast Geological Society: Research Scholarship-2012
- UC Santa Barbara: Kirby-Jones Honors Scholarship-2010

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## Positions Held:

2012–Present

**UT Austin, Jackson School of Geosciences, PhD Candidate**

Advisor: Dr. Julia A. Clarke

Dissertation: *Assessing Evolutionary & Functional Linkages Among Anatomical Systems in the Evolution of Flightless Wing-propelled Diving*

–Dissertation investigates the evolution of function and morphology in different anatomical modules, utilizing wing propelled diving birds and related taxa as a study system.

2014-2015

**Royal Veterinary College, Structure & Motion Lab, Visiting Researcher**

Host: Dr. John R. Hutchinson

–Worked as visiting student researcher investigating penguin evolutionary biomechanics through digital modeling of extinct and extant seabirds as well as functional experiments on penguins at the London Zoo. Ran phylogenetic comparative methods workshops for resident researchers & students.

2009-2012

**UC Santa Barbara, Department of Geology, Undergraduate Researcher**

Advisor: Dr. Stanley A. Awramik

Senior Thesis: *Patterns of Lamination in an Eocene Lacustrine Stromatolite: Potential of Stromatolites as Paleoclimatic and Paleoenvironmental Indicators*

–Project focused on investigated patterns in lamination of Eocene Green River Formation stromatolites and their relation to paleoclimate.

Summer 2011

**American Museum of Natural History Undergraduate Intern**

Advisor: Dr. Nancy B. Simmons

–Full time summer intern research program. Contributed to an NSF funded initiative to investigate the phylogeny and fossil record of noctilionoid bats.

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**Publications:**

**–Peer-reviewed Publications**

2016

**Proffitt, JV**; Clarke, JA; & Scofield, RP. 2016. *Novel insights into early neuroanatomical evolution in penguins from the oldest described penguin brain endocast*. *Journal of Anatomy*, 229(2), p. 228-238

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**Presentations**

**–Professional Meeting Presentations**

2016

*Investigating Inter-limb Evolutionary Linkages in Avian Limb Proportions*

**Proffitt, JV**

International Congress on Vertebrate Morphology. North Bethesda, Ma, USA (Poster)

2016

*Investigating evolutionary linkages between modules in the evolution of avian locomotion*

**Proffitt, JV**

Evolution Annual Meeting. Austin, TX, USA (Poster)

2014

*Novel Insights Into Early Neuroanatomical and Morphological Evolution in Penguins From New Material of Waimanu From the Paleocene of New Zealand*

**Proffitt, JV**; Clarke, JA; & Scofield, P

Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Annual Meeting. Berlin, Germany (Poster)

2014

*Patterns of Morphological Evolution During the Evolution of Wing-propelled Diving in Penguins: Insights Into the Evolution of Form and Function in Birds*

**Proffitt, JV**; Middleton, KM; & Clarke, JA

International Ornithological Congress. Tokyo, Japan (Poster)

2014

*Patterns of Morphological Evolution During a Locomotor Transition: Lessons From the Evolution of Wing-propelled Diving in Penguins*

**Proffitt, JV**; Middleton, KM; & Clarke, JA

Jackson School of Geosciences Graduate Symposium. Austin, TX, USA (Poster)

2014

*Patterns of Morphological Evolution During a Locomotor Transition: Lessons From the Evolution of Wing-propelled Diving in Penguins*

**Proffitt, JV**; Middleton, KM; & Clarke, JA

Society of Integrative & Comparative Biology Meeting. Austin, TX, USA

- 2013 *Evolutionary Relationships of Living and Fossil Vampire Bats*  
**Proffitt, JV**; Simmons, NB; Velazco, P; & Davalos, L  
Jackson School of Geosciences Graduate Symposium. Austin, TX, USA (Poster)
- 2011 *Evolutionary Relationships of Living and Fossil Vampire Bats*  
**Proffitt, JV**; Simmons, NB; Velazco, P; & Davalos, L  
North American Society for Bat Research. Toronto, Ontario, Canada (Talk)
- 2011 *Patterns in Lamination of Eocene Lacustrine Stromatolites: Lamination As Indicators of Climatic Conditions*  
**Proffitt, JV**; Awramik, SA; Buchheim, P; & Tanimoto, T  
Geological Society of America Rocky Mountain/Cordilleran Sectional Meeting. Logan, Ut, USA (Poster)
- Invited Talks**
- 2014 *Avian Locomotion, Ecological Diversity, and Locomotor Modules: Examining Rates of Morphological Evolution in Waterbirds*  
**Proffitt, JV**; Clarke, JA  
International Ornithological Congress Waterbird Workshop, Hakodate, Hokkaido, Japan.
- 2014 *Assessing Functional and Evolutionary Linkages Between Locomotor Modules in the Evolution of Penguins: Current Progress and Future Directions*  
**Proffitt, JV**  
Jackson School of Geosciences Paleontology Seminar Series, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, USA.
- 2014 *Digging Up New Zealand's Deep Past: Paleontological Fieldwork at St. Bathans, Central Otago*  
**Proffitt, JV**  
Jackson School of Geosciences Paleontology Seminar Series, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, USA.
- 2013 *Patterns of Lamination in an Eocene Lacustrine Stromatolite: Potential of Stromatolites as Paleoclimatic and Paleoenvironmental Indicators*  
**Proffitt, JV**, Awramik, SA; Buchheim, P; & Tanimoto, T  
Jackson School of Geosciences Paleontology Seminar Series, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, USA.
- 2011 *Chiropteran Dental Evolution: Exploring the Radiation of Noctilionoid Bats*  
**Proffitt, JV**; Simmons, NB; & Velazco, P.  
American Museum of Natural History REU Intern Presentations. New York, New York, USA.
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## **Teaching & Mentorship:**

### **–Teaching Experience**

- Fall 2016           **Cadaver Dissector, Prosector,  
& Anatomical Demonstrator**  
Dr. Brian Miller (Instructor)  
Dell Medical School, UT Austin
- Fall 2015, 2016   **Graduate Student Teaching Assistant**  
Human Gross & Microanatomy  
Dr. M. Tina Hines & Timothy Fleischer (Instructors)  
College of Natural Sciences, UT Austin
- Fall 2013           **Graduate Student Teaching Assistant**  
Age of Dinosaurs  
Dr. Timothy Rowe (Instructor)  
Jackson School of Geosciences, UT Austin

### **–Students Mentored**

- 2013- 2015   Taylor Watts, Undergraduate, UT Austin  
- Mentored student research & supervised processing of CT anatomical data.
- 2013- 2015   Rachel Egan, Undergraduate, UT Austin  
- Mentored student research & supervised processing of CT anatomical data.
- Spring 2014   Jennifer Millard, Undergraduate, UT Austin  
-Mentored student in collection of anatomical data from bird skeletons
- 2013–2014   Nicole Kurka, Undergraduate, UT Austin  
-Mentored student in completion of final stage of senior research thesis

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## **Fieldwork:**

- 2014           St. Bathans, Otago, New Zealand (10 days)–Bannockburn Formation (Miocene)  
Expedition led by T. Worthy, A. Tennyson, & M. Archer funded by the ARC  
Excavated macrofossils and collected/washed sediment for microfossils
- 2013           Paracas, Ica, Peru (5 days)–Ica Formation (Paleogene)  
Expedition lead by J.A. Clarke funded by the NSF  
Prospected fossil sites and assisted in recording stratigraphic data

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## **Leadership:**

- 2015-Present   Student & Postdoctoral Liaison Committee Member  
Society of Vertebrate Paleontology  
Acted as resource, advocate, and fundraiser for student members of society
- 2014-2016      SVP Student Roundtable Advisor-Studying Abroad

- 2015 Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA  
 Advised students on logistic/cultural aspects of performing research abroad  
 Workshop Instructor  
 Student Workshop in Phylogenetic Comparative Methods for Biomechanics  
 Royal Veterinary College, Potters Bar UK  
 Lead workshop on integrating comparative methods with biomechanical data
- 2014 Roundtable Co-convener  
 Avian Functional Morphology & Paleontology  
 International Ornithological Congress, August 18-24, Tokyo Japan  
 Convened roundtable discussion on current state of avian functional  
 morphology, paleontology, and the integration of the two disciplines
- 2013–2014 Seminar Coordinator, UT Paleontology Seminar Series. UT Austin  
 Lead departmental seminar, coordinated talks and visiting speaker schedules
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## **Service:**

### **–Service Positions Held**

- 2013–2015 **ESI Scientist in Residence K-12 Science Outreach Instructor**  
 Environmental Science Institute, UT Austin, Austin TX, USA
- 2010 –2012 **Natural History Educational Docent**  
 Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara CA, USA
- 2010–2011 **Vertebrate Curatorial Intern**  
 Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration, UCSB, Santa  
 Barbara CA, USA

### **–Editing/Reviews**

Journals Reviewed For:

- Journal of Anatomy
- Morphology

- April 2013 Reviewer: GSA Field Guide: Friesenhahn Cave: Late Pleistocene  
 Paleoecology and the Predator-Prey Relationships of Mammoths with the  
 Extinct Scimitar Cat.  
 GSA South Central Sectional Meeting. Austin, Texas, USA.

### **–Public Outreach**

- February 2016 Center for Inquiry Darwin Day Celebration  
 Pickle Research Campus, UT Austin, Austin, Texas, USA
- November 2015 Austin Paleontological Society Fossil fest  
 Old Settlers Association, Austin, Texas, USA
- September 2015 Austin Zoo Homeschool Day-Paleontology Outreach

Austin Zoo, Austin, Texas, USA

April 2014 Paleontology Rocks! Course for Visually Impaired Students  
Austin School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Austin, Texas, USA

February 2014 Center for Inquiry Darwin Day Celebration  
Trinity United Methodist Church, Austin, Texas, USA

October 2013 Zoological & Veterinary Staff Outreach Talk  
SeaWorld San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas, USA

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**Professional Associations:**

American Association of Clinical Anatomists  
Society for the Study of Evolution  
Society of Avian Paleontology & Evolution  
Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology  
North American Ornithologist's Union  
Society of Vertebrate Paleontology

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