

# Amanda Nicole Spriggs, Ph.D.

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## **Education**

**Ph.D.**, 2017, Anthropology, University at Albany - SUNY

Thesis: Evolution of lemur pelage color variation

Committee: Adam D. Gordon (Chair), Brenda Bradley, Julia Jennings, David S. Strait, Suzanne G. Strait

**M.S.**, 2009, Biological Sciences, Marshall University (GPA 4.00)

Thesis: Distribution and Status of the Northern Leopard Frog, *Rana pipiens*, in West Virginia

Committee: Thomas K. Pauley (Committee Chair), Dan K. Evans, Suzanne G. Strait

**B.S. magna cum laude**, 2007, Biology; Minor in Applied Leadership Studies, University of Charleston (GPA 3.82)

## **Professional Positions**

*Clinical Associate Professor*, Dept. of Anthro, Univ. at Albany-SUNY (August 2018-current)

*Instructor of Record/Adjunct Professor*, Dept. of Anthro., Univ. at Albany-SUNY (May 2013-July 2018)

*Adjunct Professor*, Department of Biology & Health Sciences, Russell Sage College (Aug. 2017-May 2018)

*Research Assistant*, Anthropology Department, The George Washington University (Feb. 2015-Aug. 2016)

*Academic Advisor*, Dept. of Anthro, Human Biology Program, Univ. at Albany-SUNY (June-Dec. 2014)

*Instructor*, Department of Arts and Natural Sciences, University of Charleston (Aug. 2010-May 2011)

*Lecturer*, Department of Biological Sciences, Marshall University (Aug. 2009-May 2010)

## **Teaching Experience**

Names and catalog numbers for organized courses are followed by the semester and year in which they were taught. \* Indicates course taught completely online; † indicates new prep. Courses organized by institution:

### **Instructor of Record**

#### *University at Albany-SUNY*

- Introduction to Primates (AANT 111): F14, Su15\*, Wi16\*, Su15\*, Su16\*, F16, Sp17, F17, Su17\*, Wi18\*, Su18\*, F18, Sp19, F19, F20\*
- Human Population Biology (AANT 211): F18, Sp19, F19, Sp20, F20\*, F21, Sp22, Sp23, F23, Sp25
- Human Anatomy & Physiology I (AANT 316): Su14, F18, F19, F20\*, F21, F22, F23, F25
- Human Anatomy & Physiology II (AANT 318): Su13, Sp19, Sp20, Sp22, Sp23, Sp24, Sp25
- Primate Evolutionary Biology (AANT 416): F14
- Evolutionary Medicine† (AANT 408 (was AANT 416)): Sp18, Sp20, F21, Fa23
- Human Osteology† (AANT 311): Sp22, Sp23, Sp24, Sp25
- Topics in Human Biology: Your Inner Primate† (AANT 416): F22, Sp24, F25
- Topics in Human Biology: Applied Anatomy & Physiology† (AANT 416): F25

#### *Russell Sage College*

- Complementary and Alternative Medicine (HSC 210): F17, Sp18
- Seminar in Biology: Evolutionary Medicine† (BIO 450): Sp18
- Research Methods for the Health Sciences (HSC 450): F17

#### *University of Charleston*

- Science Behind the News† (NSCI 116): F10, Sp11
- Introduction to Biology (non-majors) (NSCI 120): F10, Sp11
- Human Anatomy & Physiology I (BIOL 251): F10

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- Human Anatomy & Physiology II (BIOL 252): Sp11

*Marshall University*

- Human Anatomy (BSC 227): F09, Sp10

Teaching Assistant

*University at Albany-SUNY*

- Introduction to Human Evolution (AANT 110): F12
- Human Anatomy & Physiology I (AANT 316): F11
- Human Anatomy & Physiology II (AANT 318): Sp12, Sp13

*Marshall University*

- Human Anatomy (BSC 227): F07, Sp08, F08, Sp09, Su10

## **Students Supervised**

*Graduate Student Research Assistant Non-Thesis (University at Albany)*

- Antonio Otero

*Undergraduate Research Assistants Non-Thesis (University at Albany)*

- Peri Sosensky
- Thomas Chucta
- Juliana Hicks
- Nidhi Avasatthi
- Jasmine Bonadies

*Undergraduate Research Student Honors Thesis (University at Albany)*

- Juliana Hicks

## **Peer-Reviewed Articles** (<sup>[B]</sup> indicates book chapter)

<sup>[B]</sup>Sutton WB, **Spriggs AN**. 2023. Species account – *Lithobates pipiens*. In Pauley TK, Camps CD, and Karraker NE, eds.: Amphibians and Reptiles in West Virginia; 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. West Virginia Book Company. *In publication*.

Jacobs RL, MacFie TS, **Spriggs AN**, Baden AL, Morelli, TL, Irwin MT, Lawler RR, Pastorini J, Mayor M, Lei R, Culligan R, Hawkins MTR, Kappeler PM, Wright PC, Louis EE, Mundy NI, and Bradley BJ. 2017. Novel opsin gene variation in large-bodied, diurnal lemurs. *Biology Letters*. 13: 20170050.

**Spriggs AN**, Muchlinski MN, Gordon AD. 2016. Does the primate pattern hold up? Testing the functional significance of infraorbital foramen size variation among marsupials. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. 160 (1): 30-40.

Jacobs RL, **Spriggs AN**, Baden AL, Irwin MT, Wright PC, Louis EE, Lawler RR, Bradley BJ. 2016. Primate genotyping via High Resolution Melt Analysis (HRMA): Rapid and reliable identification of color vision status in wild lemurs. *Primates*. 57 (4): 541-547.

Borries C, Sandel AA, Koenig A, Fernandez-Duque E, Kamilar JM, Amoroso CR, Barton RA, Bray J, di Fiore A, Gilby IC, Gordon AD, Mundry R, Port M, Powell L, Pusey AE, **Spriggs AN**, Nunn CL. 2016. Transparency, usability, and reproducibility: Guiding principles toward improved comparative databases using primates as examples. *Evolutionary Anthropology*. 25 (5): 232-238.

## **Published Abstracts of Conference Proceedings**

Hicks JP, Avasatthi NA, Bonadies JK, and **Spriggs AN**. 2025. Primates shed light on glowing mammals: Adaptation or epiphenomenon? *American Journal of Biological Anthropology*. Supplement. 186:S79.

Van Horn A, **Spriggs AN**, Wilhelm BC, Kamilar JM, Rockwell LC, and Bradley BJ. 2020. Male hue, visibility and the evolution of pelage sexual dichromatism in primates. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. Supplement. 171:S69.

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- Spriggs AN**, Bradley BJ, Kamilar JM, and Gordon AD. 2019. Environmental predictors of *Propithecus* pelage variation. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. Supplement. 168:S68.
- Kamilar JM, **Spriggs AN**, Maksimoski, A, and Bradley BJ. 2019. Are there clade level differences in the sexual dimorphism of primate hair morphology? *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. Supplement. 168:S68.
- Spriggs AN**, Bradley BJ, Kamilar JM, and Gordon AD. 2018. Environmental predictors of *Eulemur* pelage variation. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. Supplement. 165:262.
- Tapanes EJ, Irwin MT, **Spriggs AN**, Kamilar JM, and Bradley BJ. 2018. Subtle sexual dichromatism and dimorphism detected in wild *Propithecus diadema*. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. Supplement. 165:270.
- Spriggs AN**, Bradley BJ, Kamilar JM, and Gordon AD. 2017. Quantifying countershading in *Eulemur* using eigencoats. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. Supplement. 162:53.
- Van Horn A, **Spriggs AN**, Wilhelm BC, Kamilar JM, and Bradley BJ. 2017. Male in uniform: Intra-individual pelage-color variation is associated with social style in male macaques. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. Supplement. 162:43.
- Bradley BJ, Kamilar JM, **Spriggs AN**, Wilhelm BC, and Walsh S. 2017. Pigmentation in a comparative context: Factors shaping variation and convergence in primate pelage patterns. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. Supplement. 162:41.
- Jacobs RL, MacFie TS, Kamilar JM, **Spriggs AN**, Baden AL, Morelli, TL, Irwin MT, Lawler RR, Pastorini J, Mayor M, Sauther ML, Lei R, Culligan R, Hawkins MTR, Kappeler PM, Wright PC, Louis EE, Mundy NI, and Bradley BJ. 2017. Variation in lemur color vision across species, populations and habitats: Implications for signal evolution. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. Supplement. 162:49.
- Spriggs AN**, Wilhelm BC, Bradley BJ, and Kamilar JM. 2016. Revisiting carpal vibrissae: Positive identification in adult *Tarsius tarsier* and *Daubentonia madagascariensis* and the implications for taxonomy and phylogeny. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. Supplement. 159:299.
- Spriggs AN** and Gordon AD. 2015. Eigencoats: a new method for the quantification and comparison of intra- and interspecific lemur pelage variation. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. Supplement. 156:295.
- Spriggs AN** and Gordon AD. 2014. Does an increased ability to discriminate between red and green lead to decreased red pelage coloration in primates? *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. Supplement. 153:244.
- Spriggs AN**, Muchlinski MN, Gordon AD. 2012. Does the primate pattern hold up? Testing the functional significance of infraorbital foramen size variation among marsupials. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. Supplement. 147:276.
- Spriggs AN** and Muchlinski MN. 2011. Living hand to mouth: how marsupials can unravel the mysteries surrounding the evolution of touch acuity in primates. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. Supplement. 144:282.

## **Internal Research Funding**

- 2018** Initiatives For Women Award
- 2016** AAPA Committee on Diversity Women's Initiative Workshop Participation Award - \$200 for travel
- 2015** University at Albany-SUNY Graduate Student Travel Award - \$375 for travel to AAPA conference
- 2014** University at Albany-SUNY Graduate Student Travel Award - \$230 for travel to AAPA conference
- 2014** AAPA William S. Pollitzer Student Travel Award Recipient - \$500 for travel to conference
- 2013** The Susan Van Horn-Shipherd '64 Women in Science Scholarship (Initiatives For Women Award)
- 2012** University at Albany-SUNY GSEU Professional Development Award

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- 2012** University at Albany-SUNY Graduate Student Travel Award - \$275 for travel to AAPA conference  
**2012** AAPA William S. Pollitzer Student Travel Award - \$500 for travel  
**2008** Marshall University Graduate College - \$500, Status/Distribution of Northern Leopard Frog, *Rana pipiens*

## **External Research Funding**

- 2008** West Virginia Division of Natural Resources - \$7,194, Status/Distribution of Northern Leopard Frog, *Rana pipiens*

## **Awards and Honors**

- 2024** Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching  
**2024** Distinguished Honorary Member of The National Society of Collegiate Scholars  
**2023** President's Excellence Award in Teaching  
**2022** Nominee, Torch Faculty/Student Engagement Award  
**2020** Nominee, Torch Faculty/Student Engagement Award  
**2007** University of Charleston Women in Science Award  
**2006** Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Participant  
**2003** University of Charleston Welch Colleague Scholarship Recipient  
**2003** West Virginia Promise Scholarship Recipient

## **Fellowships**

- 2006** National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) participant, Georgia Southern University, "Phylogenetic Studies of Bat Pollinated Flowers in Bignoniaceae"

## **Invited Presentations/Workshops**

- *Coordinator/Organizer*: "Anthropology Unleashed: Navigating Public Outreach in the World of Insta(n)aneous Gratification." American Association of Biological Anthropologists Conference, March 2024
- *Presenter*: "Evolution of Lemur Pelage Color Variation: *Eulemur* Pelage Variation." Tri-Beta National Biological Honor Society Meeting, University at Albany-SUNY, April 2019
- *Presenter*: "Do small human-like animals use pretty colors to get other small human-like animals to have baby making time with them?" Up-Goer Five Talks, University at Albany-SUNY, Sept. 2018
- *Presenter*: "Quantifying countershading in *Eulemur* using eigencoats." Annual Graduate Student Symposium, University at Albany-SUNY, Mar. 2017
- *Participant*: Online Course Development Initiative Program, University at Albany-SUNY, Feb. 2015-May 2015
- *Presenter*: Comparative Primatology Data Meeting (addressed data quality issues in primate comparative biology), Duke University, May 2014
- *Presenter*: "Does an increased ability to discriminate between red and green lead to decreased red pelage coloration in primates?" Annual Graduate Student Symposium, University at Albany-SUNY, Mar. 2014
- *Presenter*: "Color Vision: What do different animals see?" Science Club of The Albany Academy & The Albany Academy for Girls, Albany, NY, Feb. 2014
- *Instructor*: Anthropology Graduate Student Organization Workshop (provided training to use EndNote reference manager), University at Albany-SUNY, Apr. 2013
- *Presenter*: "Does the primate pattern hold up? Testing the functional significance of infraorbital foramen size variation among marsupials." Annual Graduate Student Symposium, University at Albany-SUNY, Mar. 2013

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- *Guest Lecturer*: Introduction to Human Evolution (AANT 110), University at Albany-SUNY, Oct. 2012
- *Participant*: 3rd annual AnthroTree Workshop (workshop on phylogenetic comparative methods), Amherst, Massachusetts, May 2012
- *Presenter*: “What can we learn from the infraorbital foramen?” American Chemical Society Meeting, University of Charleston, Oct. 2012
- *Guest Lecturer*: Human Anatomy (BSC 227), Marshall University, May 2010
- *Participant*: Marshall University Teaching Conference (received training in effective exam making, exploring active learning and new teaching strategies), Aug. 2009
- *Presenter*: Teaching Assistant Orientation (selected to train incoming graduate students), Marshall University, Aug. 2009
- *Presenter*: “A Chronological Comparison of Body Size of West Virginia *Rana pipiens* from the 1940’s and the 1990’s by Skeletochronology” 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Association of Southeastern Biologists (ASB), Birmingham, AL, Apr. 2009
- *Presenter*: “Phylogenetic Studies of Bat-Pollinated Flowers in Bignoniaceae.” Chi Beta Phi 59<sup>th</sup> National Conference, Davis and Elkins College, Sep. 2006

## **Professional Experience**

- Primate Genomics Lab Research Assistant, George Washington University: conducted research in a BL2 genetics wet lab (gained experience in nucleic acid extraction, amplification, and quantification; gel electrophoresis; and measuring gene expression and/or HRM genotyping using qPCR.) and research in the specimen collections of various natural history museums (gained experience in taking images and measurements using a handheld microscope, calipers, and ColorChecker chart), Feb. 2015-Feb. 2016
- Yale Molecular Anthropology Laboratory: extracting, amplifying, and quantifying nucleic acids; performing gel electrophoresis; and HRM genotyping using qPCR, Nov. 2013-Dec. 2014
- Graduate Assistant, University at Albany-SUNY: management and recovery of metadata associated with primate body size research project, Aug. 2013-May 2014
- Big Horn Basin, Wyoming: paleontological field work (surface prospecting and screen washing) to determine floral and faunal composition of early Eocene, Jul. 2012
- American Museum of Natural History, Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History, The Field Museum, and the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History: gained knowledge of hair morphometric measurements and hair color quantification methods for primate pelages, Jan. 2011 – Jan. 2016
- Lab Manager, Paleontology Lab, Marshall University: general lab maintenance, purchase-card reconciliation, managed metadata associated with PaleoView3D fossil museum, prepped fossil specimen scans for online image library, Jan. 2009-July 2010
- Research Assistant, Marshall University Herpetology Lab: responsible for general organization of the lab, entered West Virginia herpetological survey records into West Virginia Amphibian and Reptile Atlas database, and performed inventory of specimens collected for the database, Jan. 2008-May 2009
- Marshall University, Herpetology Lab: assisted graduate student in study concerning the presence of amphibian chytrid fungus in amphibian species of greatest conservation need in West Virginia, recorded data, and sampled amphibian populations using alcohol preserved swabs and proper hygiene, Fall 2008
- Marshall University, Herpetology Lab: assisted the USDA Forest Service with study of the effects of multi-use trails on populations of *Plethodon nettingi* (Cheat Mountain Salamander), a federally threatened species, by setting up study transects, Fall 2008
- Master’s thesis research, Marshall University: conducted study on distribution and status of Northern Leopard Frogs, *Rana pipiens*, Aug. 2007-May 2009

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- Lab Assistant, Marshall University Paleontology Lab: created interactive study guides with Microsoft Office PowerPoint 2007 for Marshall University Human Anatomy (BSC 227) students under advisory of Dr. Suzanne Strait, Aug. 2007-May 2008
- Marshall University, Herpetology Lab: assisted in monitoring pitfalls and drift fence arrays to study the migration of ambystomid salamanders to breeding pools, Fall 2007
- Lab Assistant, University of Charleston, General Zoology BIOL 224: assisted in setting up the labs each week, administering exams, and helping students to comprehend material during lab periods, Jan. 2007-May 2007
- National Youth Science Camp, University of Charleston: assisted Dr. Phil Clem with mist netting to capture bat specimens for camp demonstration, Jul. 2006
- Intern, Thrasher Environmental, Charleston, WV: assisted in preparing environmental impact statement (EIS) on the Cheat Mountain Salamander, *Plethodon nettingi*, a federally threatened species, May 2005-Jul. 2005

## **Professional Service**

### **Department of Anthropology**

- Presenter at Undergraduate Awards Ceremony, May 2025
- Member, Search Committee for Instructor Support Specialist, March-May 2025
- Member, Search Committee for Visiting Assistant Professor, Dec. 2022
- Member, Search Committee for Visiting Assistant Professor, July 2022
- Presenter at Undergraduate Awards Ceremony, May 2022
- Recruiting and Training Leave Replacements. October 2020, May 2021
- Member, Search Committee for Academic Advisor of Human Biology Program, June 2020
- Panel member, Graduate Student Teaching Colloquium, April 2020

### **School/College of Arts and Sciences**

- Human Biology Program Representative during College of Arts and Sciences Self-Study meeting with external reviewer from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), Dec. 2023
- Human Biology Program Representative, Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Engagement (CURCE) Fall Fair, Oct. 2022
- Human Biology Program Representative, Munch with Majors, Sept. 2022
- Anthropology Representative, Commencement Faculty Representative, May 2022, 2023, 2024

### **University**

- Faculty Advisor, National Society of Black Women in Medicine, SUNY Albany Chapter, Aug. 2023-current
- Session moderator, “Evolutionary Medicine: Obesity, Diabetes, Arthritis, Maternal and Fetal Health”, Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Engagement (CURCE) Annual Student Research Conference, April 2020

### **Academic**

- Manuscript Reviewer, American Journal of Primatology, July 2023
- Manuscript Reviewer, International Journal of Primatology, Feb. 2022

### **Community**

- Volunteer judge, South Point High School Science Fair, Ohio, 2009
- West Virginia Assistant Coordinator for the North American Amphibian Monitoring Program (NAAMP): ensured that volunteer candidates had taken and passed frog calling quiz that determines program

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eligibility, assigned routes to volunteers in West Virginia, prepared and distributed route packages to volunteers, and managed NAAMP database where survey information is entered and stored, Aug. 2007-May 2009

## **Public Engagement**

AnthroHub - website dedicated to public outreach and education from an anthropological lens.



## **Media Contributions**

### **Print**

Commentator for "The Brutal Reason Some Primates Are Born a Weird Color" by Max G. Levy in WIRED online magazine, January 2022

## **Professional Memberships**

American Association of Biological Anthropologists (AABA)

## **References**

**Dr. Adam D. Gordon**  
**Associate Professor**  
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**Dr. David Strait**  
**Professor**  
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