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# CURRICULUM VITAE

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**Jessica Lynn Owens, Ph. D.**

*Experimental Psychologist, Canine Behavior Expert*

**Social Behavior • Research Design • Behavior Analyst**

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## Professional Profile

- **Experience** • 20+ years of high performance in diverse professional settings: academic, curriculum, mentoring, research, training, and business management.
- **Expertise** • Analysis of social and vocal behavior and research design.
- **Research** • A 20+ year history of multi-disciplinary experimental research, conference participation, and publication recognized, awarded, and funded by professional and academic organizations.
- **Academia** • Assistant professor teaching cross-disciplinary coursework, proven committee member and leader during accreditation, and active mentor and advisor.
- **Technical** • Sound Analysis Software (Cool Edit Pro, Avisoft SASLab Pro, Raven), Statistical / Spreadsheet Software (SPSS, SAS, JUMP, Excel), Word Processing (Microsoft Office), SMART technology, Moodle, Online teaching, Blackboard, Social Networking, Crowdfunding & Crowdsourcing.

## Education

**2005, B.A. Psychology**

**Mount Union College**

- "The Effect of an Enriched Environment on Behavior and Anatomy Following Medial Frontal Cortex Contusions."
- Used behavioral neuroscience approach to investigate potential of social and physical enrichment as treatment for physiological and behavioral deficits resulting from a common neurotrauma.
- *GPA= 3.4 of a maximum 4.0, 130 semester hours earned*

**2013, Ph.D. Experimental Psychology**

**University of Tennessee**

- "Effects of Traffic Noise on the Social Behavior of Tufted Titmice."
- Used conservation behavior approach to determine how traffic noise, common form of anthropogenic disturbance, affects avian behavior while testing hypotheses for causal mechanisms.
- *GPA = 3.95 of a maximum 4.0*

## **Current Position**

**06/2017 – Current**

**Unleashed Training, FL**

Unleashed Training is the authority on remediating dog reactivity using kind, effective, and science-backed methods of behavioral modification, desensitization, and relationship building.

## **Academic Appointments**

**08/2017 – 05/2018**

**Montana State University, MT**

**Courses:** Psychology 491, Comparative Psychology (Online)

**08/2014 – 12/2015, Asst. Professor (Tenure Track)**

**Union College, KY**

**Courses:** Psychology 200, Introduction to Psychology  
Psychology 210, Child Development  
Psychology 225, Adolescent Psychology  
Psychology 470 & 570, Learning Theory (570, Graduate)  
Psychology 592, Social & Community Psychology (Online, Graduate)  
General Studies 181, Critical Thinking

**Committees:** Re-Accreditation Quality Enhancement Program (RQEP) Steering Committee  
Gen. Studies Critical Thinking 181 Course Design Committee  
RQEP Co-Curricular Committee (Director)

**Achievements 2014-2015:** Union College Research Fellowship, meditation club, revival of Psychology Club with record-setting membership and community service hours, 12% increase in Psychology enrollment, symposium presenter at Behaviour 2015 (International conference), two invited talks, outreach presentation at Evarts Elementary School, successful completion of crowdfunding project, several interviews for Canid Howl Project.

**08/2013 - 05/2014, Asst. Professor**

**Lincoln Memorial University, TN**

**Courses:** Psychology 100, Introduction to Psychology  
Psychology 221, Child Development  
Psychology 290, Human Learning & Thinking  
Psychology 390, Physiological Psychology

**Committees:** Research & Scholarship Committee  
Graduate Programs Committee  
Undergraduate Admissions Committee

**Achievements:** cofounder of Symposium at 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the International Society for Behavioral Ecology, established collaborations with University of Michigan and National Institutes of Math and Biological Sciences, publication of a collaborative manuscript, cofounder and participant in Research and Scholarship Colloquium, cofounder Grant Review Panel, revival of Psychology Club with record-setting membership and community service hours, 10% increase in Psychology enrollment, Psychology Curriculum, Faculty Podcast.

## **08/2006 - 05/2013, Graduate Teaching Asst.**

**University of Tennessee**

**Courses:** Psychology 310, Motivation  
Psychology 320, Learning & Thinking  
Psychology 400, Cognition: Symbol & Language Processing  
Psychology 474, Theories in Research & Child Development (Grad mixed)

## **Research Positions**

### **08/2019 – Current, Research Associate**

**B.E.C. Research, FL.**

**Duties:** The Behavioral Enrichment of Canines (BEC) research group conducts research to improve the lives of animals living in shelters using enrichment strategies specific to each dog.

### **08/2013 - Current, Researcher / Secretary**

**C.P.V.C., FL**

**Duties:** The Cooperative Predator Vocalization Consortium (CPVC) is an international group of scientists that works individually and collaboratively to investigate the vocal, social, and predatory behavior of these species that hunt in packs, using recordings, playbacks, mathematical algorithms, and other techniques.

### **05/2007 - 08/2007, Graduate Research Intern Mote Marine Laboratory, FL**

**Duties:** Data collection and analysis for several projects including prey ecology, adolescent male bottlenose dolphin social behavior, fish communication.

### **08/2005 - 07/2006, Graduate Research Assistant**

**University of Tennessee**

**Duties:** Assist with design, data collection and analysis of research projects comparing social and vocal complexity between species.

### **06/2004 - 09/2004, NSF Research Fellow**

**Kent State University, OH**

**Duties:** Collaborate with Dr. Stephen Fountain and his students to design an experiment, collect and then analyze data for a study of complex pattern learning behavior.

## **Peer-Reviewed Publications**

Root-Gutteridge, H., Smith, B.R., Kershenbaum, A., Butkiewicz, H., Fontaine, A.C., **Owens, J.L.**, Schindler, L., Dassow, A. (2024). Not afraid of the big bad wolf: calls from large predators do not silence mesopredators. *Wildlife Biology*. Doi.org/10.1002/wlb3.01226

Bru, E., Smith, B.R., Butkiewicz, H., Fontaine, A.C., Dassow, A., **Owens, J.L.**, Root-Gutteridge, H., Schindler, L., Kershenbaum, A. (2023). Combining acoustic localization and high resolution land cover classification to study predator vocalization behavior. *Wildlife Research*, 50(12), 965-979. Doi.org/10.1071/WR22007

Smith, B., Root-Gutteridge, H., Butkiewicz, H., Dassow, A., Fontaine, A., Markham, A., **Owens, J.L.**, Schindler, L., Wijers, M., Kershenbaum, A. (2021). Acoustic localization of wildlife with low-cost equipment: lower sensitivity, but no loss of precision. *Wildlife Research*, 49(4), 372-381. doi.org/10.1071/WR21089

Kershenbaum, A., **Owens, J.L.**, & Waller, S. (2019). Tracking cryptic animals using acoustic multilateration: a system for long-range wolf detection. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 145, 1619-1628. Doi.org/10.1121/1.5092973

- Owens, J.L.**, Waller, S., Olsen, M., Fontaine, A., & Kloth, C. (2017). Visual classification of feral cat *Feral silvestris catus* vocalizations. *Current Zoology* 63(6), 331-339. doi:10.1093/cz/zox013
- Avey, M.T., Bloomfield, L.L., Elie, J.E., Freeberg, T.M., Guillette, L.M., Hoeschele, M., Lee, H., Moscicki, M.K., **Owens, J.L.** & Sturdy, C.B. (2014). ZENK activation in the nidopallium of black-capped chickadees in response to both conspecific and heterospecific calls. *PLoS ONE* 9(6), e100927. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0100927.
- Owens, J.L.**, Stec, C.L. & O’Hatnick, A. (2012). The effects of extended exposure to traffic noise on Parid social and risk-taking behavior. *Behavioral Processes*, 91(1), 61-69.
- Bartmess, J., Branch, C.L., Browning, S., **Owens, J.L.**, & Freeberg, T.M. (2010). Vocal signaling in the context of a perched predator model: a comparative study with Carolina chickadees (*Poecile carolinensis*), tufted titmice (*Baeolophus bicolor*), and white-breasted nuthatches (*Sitta carolinensis*). *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology*, 64, 1187-1198.
- Owens, J. L.** & Freeberg, T. M. (2007). Variation in chick-a-dee calls of tufted titmice, *Baeolophus bicolor*: note type and individual distinctiveness. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 122, 1216-1226.

## Invited Speaking Engagements

- 2023.** Association for Professional Dog Trainers,  
**2017.** Earth and Life Sciences Institute, Tokyo Tech, Japan  
**2016.** Michael P. Malone Conference, Montana State University  
**2015.** Furman University’s department of Philosophy  
**2015.** Eastern Kentucky University’s Piper Faculty Ethics Seminar  
**2015.** Harlan County Kentucky School District’s Evarts Elementary School

## Conference Presentations

- 2024.** Interactive and therapeutic play leads to lasting reduction in cortisol and anxiety-driven behaviors in shelter dogs. Congdon, E., Evans, M., **Owens, J.L.** Animal Behavior Society.
- 2023.** Using enrichments strategies to lower cortisol levels in shelter dogs. Congdon, E., **Owens, J.L.** *Invited Workshop*. Association for Professional Dog Trainers.
- 2022.** Interactive and therapeutic play may lead to reduction in cortisol in shelter dogs, Congdon, E. & **Owens, J.L.** Animal Behavior Society.
- 2016.** The matter of social and vocal complexity in an increasingly noisy world. **Owens, J.L.** *Invited Speaker*. Michael P. Malone Conference 2016.
- 2016.** Unsolicited cat calls: A feral repertoire. Waller, S., **Owens, J.L.**, Olsen, M, Fontaine, A, Kloth, C. ISBE 2016
- 2015.** Crowdsourcing wolf howls: Do you see what I see? **Owens, J.L.** *Symposium presenter* Behavior 2015.
- 2014.** Using crowdsourcing to bridge the gap between animal communication scientists and non-scientists. **Owens, J.L.** *Symposium presenter*. 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the International Society for Behavioral Ecology.
- 2013.** Traffic noise and parid behavior: an experimental test. **Owens, J.L.** 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Animal Behavior Society. \*Poster presentation.
- 2012.** Phylogenetic relatedness and immediate early gene expression in black-capped chickadees. Sturdy, C.B., Avey, M.T., Bloomfield, L.L., Elie, J.E., Freeberg, T.M., Guillette, L.M.,

Hoeschele, M., Lee, H., Moscicki, M. & **Owens, J.L.** 19<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference of Comparative Cognition.

- 2012.** To (Chick-a-) Dee, or not to Dee? That is the que! stion. Sturdy, C.B., Avey, M.T., Bloomfield, L.L., Elie, J.E., Freeberg, T.M., Guillette, L.M., Hoeschele, M., Lee, H., Moscicki, M. & **Owens, J.L.** 2012 Royce Conference.
- 2011.** Anthropogenic noise disrupts behavior in Parids: an experimental test of the effects of traffic noise on Carolina chickadees and tufted titmice. **Owens, J.L.** *Invited Speaker.* 119<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the American Psychology Association.
- 2011.** Long-term exposure to traffic noise affects social and risk taking behavior. **Owens, J.L.** International Behavior Conference; a joint meeting of the Animal Behavior Society and the International Ethological Conference, Bloomington, IN.
- 2010.** Traffic noise and Parid behavior: an experimental test. **Owens, J.L.** 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Animal Behavior Society. \*Poster presentation.
- 2009.** Variation in social and vocal behavior of tufted titmice across habitat type. **Owens, J.L.** 127<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union.
- 2006.** Variation in chick-a-dee calls of tufted titmice, *Baeolophus bicolor*: note type and individual distinctiveness. **Owens, J.L.** 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the Animal Behavior Society. \*Poster presentation.
- 2005.** The effect of an enriched environment on behavior and anatomy following medial frontal cortex contusions. **Owens, J.L.** Annual Conference of the Midwestern Psychological Association. \*Poster presentation.

## **Selected Media Coverage**

Yau, F. (Host) (2024, February 29) “Interactive and Therapeutic Play for Shelter Dogs with Dr. Elizabeth Congdon and Dr. Jessica Owens” (55) [Audio Podcast Episode] In *Worry Less, Wag More: The Behavior Vets Podcast*. Apple Podcasts.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/interactive-and-therapeutic-play-for-shelter-dogs-with/id1599111429?i=1000647604306>

“Canid Howl Project” *Scientific American* Online <http://www.scientificamerican.com/citizen-science/canid-howl-project/>

'In brief.' *Monitor on Psychology*, 42(9) pg 25. <http://www.apa.org/monitor/2011/10/inbrief.aspx>

“Scientists Need Your Help to Decode the Secret Language of Wolves.” *TakePart* Magazine. March 4, 2015. <http://www.takepart.com/article/2015/03/04/decoding-your-dogs-bark-save-gray-wolves>

“Speak, Boy, Speak!” *onEarth* Magazine. March, 2015. <http://www.onearth.org/earthwire/canid-howl-project>

## **Synergistic Activities & Outreach**

### **2006 - Current. Mentoring Student Research**

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- As a doctoral student I served as the research mentor for more than 10 undergraduate students and one high school student. These students were trained in field work and involved in all aspects of research, earning co-authorship and continuing onto 5 graduate programs.
- As an Assistant professor I advised the independent research of two undergraduate students who later presented their work at the Blue Ridge Undergraduate Research Conference, March 2014.
- As the owner of and lead behaviorist at Unleashed Training and a research assistant with B.E.C. I have worked with Bethune Cookman (HBCU) to involve first-generation and under-represented youths in research opportunities.

### **2007 - Current. Interdisciplinary Collaboration, Research Consortiums**

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- I have established collaborative relationships with colleagues at University of Alberta, University of Tennessee, Montana State University, the National Institute of Mathematical and Biological Sciences and the University of Cambridge.
- This early collaborative work has proven wildly successful. Resulting products include: the Canid Howl Project, media attention, new collaborations, a research symposium at ISBE 2014 & Behavior 2015, the formation of the Cooperative Predator Vocalization Consortium and several on-going research projects, publications and presentations.
- The work that Unleashed Training and BEC Research have collaborated on over the past 5 years has led to several senior thesis projects for graduating senior undergraduates, several presentations, awards, and now publications. We intend to continue this partnership due to our shared goal of improving the lives of animals in shelters, their assessments, and placements in appropriate homes..

### **2010 - Current. Community Outreach**

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- I have participated in several public presentations about animal behavior and communication, animal safety and pet training, including the annual Owl Prowl at the University of Tennessee Forest Resources Research and Education Center.
- In Spring 2015 I was invited by a student in my Educational Psychology course to give the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students of Evarts Elementary a presentation of how animals communicate with one another. I took the opportunity to bring along my handicapped pit bull as an outreach tool.

## **Selected Honors**

**2015** -Research Fellowship, Union College \$600

**2014** -Mini-Grant Research Award, Lincoln Memorial University \$2500

**2013** -Selected as Honorary Faculty Coach for LMU Women's Basketball

-Science Alliance Award for Excellence in Research, University of Tennessee \$2500

- 2011**-Research featured in *Monitor on Psychology* (Vol. 42, No. 9, pg. 25)  
-Recognized by the 6<sup>th</sup> Division of the American Psychological Association (APA) as an outstanding Graduate Student Researcher.  
-Nominated by the 6th Division of the APA and accepted by the APA Science Student Council and APA Board of Scientific Affairs to participate in *Datablitz*.
- 2010** -Tennessee Ornithological Society's Conservation Research Grant \$500
- 2009** -Dissertation Award, Psychology Department, University of Tennessee \$800  
-Top-up Fellowship, Psychology Department, University of Tennessee (*salary*)  
-Science Alliance Award for Excellence in Research, University of Tennessee \$2500  
-J.B. Owen Conservation Award, Tennessee Ornithological Society \$300
- 2003 - 2007** -2007 Marjorie and Louis Gilbert Scholarship, Mote Marine Laboratory \$1800  
-Psi Chi Undergraduate Research Award ~\$1200  
-National Science Foundation Undergraduate Research Experience ~\$3500  
-Wade Family Scholarship, Duke University Marine Laboratory ~ \$1100

## References

### **Elizabeth Congdon**

\*Research Collaborator, friend

Assistant Professor, Biology, Bethune-Cookman University

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### **Arik Kershenbaum, Ph.D.**

\*Research Collaborator, friend

Herchel Smith Research Fellow, University of Cambridge

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### **Todd M. Freeberg, Ph.D.**

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