

# Jennifer Keliher-Venegas

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## EDUCATION

- 2009 - 2012 San Diego State University (SDSU)  
Marine Biology, Bachelors of Science  
Minor: Honors Interdisciplinary Studies  
GPA: 3.52/4.00
- Summer 2011 Spanish Language Immersion Program  
Costa Rican Culture and Language Institute (ICLC)  
Alajuela, Costa Rica  
GPA: 4.00/4.00
- 2005 - 2009 Southwestern Community College (SWC)  
Chula Vista, CA  
GPA: 3.58/4.00
- 2007 - 2008 San Diego State University (SDSU)  
San Diego, CA  
Cross enrollment
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## HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2009 - 2012 Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS)/Initiative for Maximizing Student Development Program (IMSD)  
National Institute of General Medical Sciences  
National Institutes of Health
- 2009 - 2011 Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- 2009 - 2012 San Diego State University Honors Program
- 2011 - 2012 Mortar Board Honor Society
- 2010 - 2012 Golden Key International Honor Society
- 2010 - 2012 Scholars Without Borders Honor Society
- 2012 Sustainability Award, SDSU University Honors Program
- 2012 Community Service Award, Minority Biomedical Research Program

2011	Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
2011	Scholars Without Borders Study Abroad Scholarship
2011	SDSU Associated Students Study Abroad Scholarship
2011	Study Abroad Incentive Scholarship SDSU Division of Undergraduate Studies International Programs
2011	Paul and Margaret Peninger Memorial Scholarship San Diego State University
2010	Mabel Myers Memorial Scholarship SDSU College of Sciences
2010	Harry Hamber Memorial Scholarship SDSU College of Sciences
2010	Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF)/HISPA-TDC Scholarship
2010	The Endocrine Society's Poster Award SACNAS Conference
2009, 2010, 2012	SDSU College of Sciences Dean's List
2009 - 2012	Educational Opportunity Program San Diego State University
2009	Coca-Cola Foundation's Advancing to Universities Scholarship Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF)
2009	SACNAS Outstanding Undergraduate Poster Presentation in the Marine and Ocean Sciences
2009	Association for Women in Science (AWIS) Scholarship
2009	Alliance/Merck <i>Ciencia</i> Scholarship Merck Company Foundation Merck Institute for Science Education
2009	LIPP Foundation Biology Academic Excellence Scholarship Southwestern College School of Math, Science, and Engineering
2009	Eastlake Fund Scholarship Southwestern College Foundation

2009, 2008 SACNAS National Conference Travel Scholarship

2008 - 2009 Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement Program (MESA)  
Southwestern College

2007, 2008 SWC President's List: 13 units completed with 4.0/4.0 GPA

2007 Outstanding Student in Research Methods and Design Award  
Bridges to the Future Program

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## RESEARCH

Jan 2012 – May 12' NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center, La Jolla, CA

**Project:** Testing and Optimizing the Utility of Shortfin Mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) Microsatellite DNA Markers on Common Thresher Sharks (*Alopias vulpinus*).  
Advisor: Andrew Bohonak, Dovi Kacev

Aug 2009 – Jan 12' NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center, La Jolla, CA

**Project:** Examining stress in bowhead whales by measuring cortisol in blubber tissue to assess individual and population health using enzyme immunoassays.  
Advisor: Nicholas Kellar

Summer 2010 NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center, La Jolla, CA

**Project:** Evaluating whether the limited distribution of the Gulf of California harbor porpoise (vaquita) is related to oceanographic features within their Gulf of California habitat by using CTD and acoustic detection data.  
Advisors: Barbara Taylor, Sarah Mesnick

Summer 2009 UCSD Summer Training Academy for Research in the Sciences (STARS) Program; NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center

**Project:** Conducted a comparative analysis of mtDNA diversity and social structure between groups of killer whale (*Orcinus orca*) from the Northwest and Eastern Tropical Pacific.  
Advisors: Sarah Mesnick, Phillip Morin

Summer 2008 Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Program on River and Coastal Restoration, National Science Foundation  
University of Minnesota, Louisiana State University.

**Project:** Assessed the rates of soil accretion within the Wax Lake Delta, LA and plant responses to prolonged submersion after a large-scale flood.  
Advisors: Guerry O. Holm, Robert Twilley

Summer 2007      Bridges to the Future Program, San Diego State University

**Project:** Gained basic laboratory training in molecular biology and computer simulation modeling to contribute to the understanding of cardiac muscle-cell contractility and relaxation behavior.  
Advisor: Paul Paolini

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## INVITED SEMINARS AND SYMPOSIA

Keliher, J., Trego, M., Kellar, N. *Developing a New Tool to Examine Physiological Stress in Cetaceans: Measuring Glucocorticoids in the Blubber of Arctic Bowhead Whales to Assess Population Health.* SDSU Student Research Symposium. March 2012 (Poster Presentation)

Keliher, J., Trego, M., Kellar, N. *Developing a New Tool to Examine Physiological Stress in Cetaceans: Measuring Glucocorticoids in the Blubber of Arctic Bowhead Whales to Assess Population Health.* SDSU Student Research Symposium. March 2011 (Oral Presentation)

Keliher, J., Trego, M., Kellar, N. *Developing a New Tool to Examine Physiological Stress in Cetaceans: Measuring Glucocorticoids in the Blubber of Arctic Bowhead Whales to Assess Population Health.* SACNAS National Conference. Sept 2010 (Poster Presentation)

Keliher, J., Mesnick, S., Taylor, B. *Why Is There a Desert Porpoise? Understanding the Restricted Range of the Critically Endangered Vaquita.* NOAA Summer Research Symposium. Aug 2010 (Oral Presentation)

Keliher, J., Mesnick, S., Taylor, B. *Why Is There a Desert Porpoise? Understanding the Restricted Range of the Critically Endangered Vaquita.* Marine Mammal Commission. Aug 2010 (Oral Presentation)

Keliher, J., Mesnick, S. *Comparative Analysis of Killer Whale (*Orcinus orca*) mtDNA Diversity and Social Structure in the Northwest and Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean.* SACNAS National Conference. October 2009 (Poster Presentation)

Keliher, J., Mesnick, S. *Comparative Analysis of Killer Whale (*Orcinus orca*) mtDNA Diversity and Social Structure in the Northwest and Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean.* SWC Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement Night. Sept 2009 (Oral and Poster Presentation)

Keliher, J., Mesnick, S. *Comparative Analysis of Killer Whale (*Orcinus orca*) mtDNA Diversity and Social Structure in the Northwest and Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean.* UCSD Summer Research Conference. August 2009 (Oral Presentation)

Keliher, J., Holm, G. Twilley, R. *Post-Flood Sedimentation and Flood Tolerance of Plant Species in a Young, Emerging Delta*. SACNAS National Conference. October 2008 (Poster Presentation)

Keliher, J., Holm, G. Twilley, R. *Post-Flood Sedimentation and Flood Tolerance of Plant Species in a Young, Emerging Delta*. SWC Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement Night. Sept 2008 (Oral and Poster Presentation)

Keliher, J., Holm, G. Twilley, R. *Post-Flood Sedimentation and Flood Tolerance of Plant Species in a Young, Emerging Delta*. SDSU 1<sup>st</sup> Annual NSF/MESA Summer Internship Program Symposium. August 2008 (Poster Presentation)

Keliher, J., Holm, G. Twilley, R. *Post-Flood Sedimentation and Flood Tolerance of Plant Species in a Young, Emerging Delta*. University of Minnesota: Undergraduate Summer Research Symposium. August 2008 (Poster Presentation)

Keliher, J., Holm, G. Twilley, R. *Post-Flood Sedimentation and Flood Tolerance of Plant Species in a Young, Emerging Delta*. University of Minnesota: Center for Earth Surface Dynamics. August 2008 (Oral and Poster Presentation)

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## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Spring 2012            Campus: **Co-Editor; SDSU MBRs/IMSD Newsletter**  
San Diego State University  
I volunteered to interview and write articles on current scholars, alumni, and faculty mentors. This was published online and sent out to the College of Sciences to promote awareness of the program and inspire students desiring to earn a graduate degree in the STEM fields.
- Spring 2012            Campus: **Program Advisor; Biomedical Exploratory Program**  
San Diego State University  
Program advisor and peer mentor for the Biomedical Exploratory Program (BEP) aimed to provide freshmen and sophomore students interested in graduate school with academic guidance and funded research experience.
- April 11, 2012        Campus: **Peer Mentoring; Scholarship Workshop**  
San Diego State University  
Delivered a workshop to aspiring STEM field underclassmen sharing how to best prepare for applying to scholarships, how to write for them, and where to find them.
- April 2, 2012            Community: **High School Outreach**  
San Diego State University  
Shared my experiences with 9<sup>th</sup> grade students involved with the Ocean Discovery Institute.

- Feb 24, 2012      Campus: **Study Abroad Ambassador**  
 San Diego State University  
 Presented my study abroad experience at SDSU's Scholars Without Borders Honors Society Installment Reception.
- Jan 31, 2012      Campus: **Donor Outreach**  
 San Diego State University  
 Selected by presidential invitation to represent the College of Sciences by discussing SDSU research programs with Qualcomm's CEO, Dr. Paul E. Jacobs, prior to his participation in the President's Lecture Series.
- Nov 18, 2011      Campus: **Study Abroad Ambassador**  
 San Diego State University  
 Presented my study abroad experience at SDSU's International Festival sponsored by the University Honors Program.
- Nov 9, 2011      Campus: **Donor Outreach**  
 San Diego State University  
 Represented the College of Sciences as a student speaker at the Scholarship Donor Appreciation Luncheon as part of SDSU's Campaign.
- Nov 4, 2011      Campus: **Study Abroad Ambassador**  
 San Diego State University  
 Promoted international education by sharing my study abroad experience, funding resources, and advice on how to apply for financial support.
- Apr 6, 2011      Community: **Junior High and High School Outreach**  
 San Diego State University  
 Shared my experiences with 8th-12<sup>th</sup> grade students involved with the Ocean Discovery Institute.
- Mar 19, 2011      Campus: **High School Outreach**  
 San Diego State Explore Open House  
 Advised prospective students, encouraged high school students pursuing science careers to consider SDSU, and helped recruit students eligible for acceptance into the MBRS program.
- Oct 29, 2010      Campus: **Community College Outreach**  
 San Diego State University  
 Student panel member orienting and sharing my experiences with transfer students from Southwestern College and San Diego City College.



Teachers Assistant  
Department of Biology, Southwestern College

Jan 2008 – May 2009

Assisted Professor Nira Clark in her Zoology laboratory section, reviewed lecture material with students outside of class during workshops, and graded examinations.

Guest Instructor  
Thurgood Marshall Elementary

January 2009

Delivered an interactive lesson on the cell to a fifth grade class utilizing computer media, hand-held viewers, and common classroom materials to construct a macro cell model.

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### PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2012-Present	MANA de San Diego
2009 - Present	Ecological Society of America (ESA)
2009 - Present	Society for Marine Mammalogy (SMM)
2011 - Present	Society for Conservation Biology
2008 - Present	Association for Women in Science (AWIS)
2008 - 2012	Society for the Advancement of Chicanos, Latinos, and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS)

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### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Spring 2012	<b>International Committee for the Recovery of the Vaquita (<i>CIRVA</i>)</b> Scientific Meeting. Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico Discuss the status of the PACE-Vaquita Conservation Plan, development and success of alternative fishing gear, and latest results of vaquita-related scientific studies to make new recommendations for the species recovery.
Fall 2011	<b>Research Ethics Seminar</b> Course focused on discussing responsible conduct in research. Taught by Dr. Dena Plemmons, Interim Director in the Division of Research Affairs at San Diego State University.
Fall 2011	<b>Professional Speech &amp; Communication Workshop</b> Strategic instruction on techniques to optimize breathing, voice projection and body stance in order to communicate more effectively. Presented by Kathryn Kellner at San Diego State University.

- Spring 2010      **AAAS Conference**  
Land-Ocean Linkages and Dynamics of High-Productivity Ecosystems in  
the Sea of Cortes Workshop.
- Fall 2010      **SACNAS National Conference**  
Science, Technology & Diversity for a Sustainable Future.
- Fall 2010      **Scientific Writing Course**  
Developed writing and oral skills specific for science communication.  
Generated research reports, literature reviews, abstracts, proposals, and  
oral and poster presentations.
- Fall 2009      **SACNAS National Conference**  
Improving the Human Condition: Challenges for Interdisciplinary Science
- Fall 2008      **SACNAS National Conference**  
International Polar Year: Global Change in our Communities.

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## REFERENCES

### **Sanford Bernstein, PhD**

Professor of Biology; Co-PI of the SDSU MBRS/IMSD Program  
San Diego State University - Life Sciences 371  
5500 Campanile Drive  
San Diego, CA 92182  
Office: (619) 594-5629; [sbernstein@sunstroke.sdsu.edu](mailto:sbernstein@sunstroke.sdsu.edu)

### **Sarah L. Mesnick, PhD**

Ecologist and Science Liason  
Southwest Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries Service  
3333 N. Torrey Pines Court, La Jolla, CA 92037  
Office: (858) 546-7148; [sarah.mesnick@noaa.gov](mailto:sarah.mesnick@noaa.gov)

### **Nicholas Kellar, PhD**

Fisheries Biologist  
Southwest Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries Service  
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### **Andrew Bohonak, PhD**

Professor and Vice Chair of Biology  
San Diego State University - MC 4614  
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San Diego, CA 92182  
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### **Michelle Lopez, MA**

Associate Director of the SDSU MBRS/IMSD Program

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