BRYNDEN PERKINS

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OBJECTIVE

I am currently studying vertebrate paleontology in pursuit of my PhD at Virginia Tech. My goal is to become a university professor, to be able to partake in research and teach future generations of scientists. I am primarily interested in the evolution of archosaurs, the early radiation of major clades, and filling in gaps in the vertebrate evolutionary tree.

EDUCATION

Virginia Tech *Blacksburg, VA* August 2024 – current
PhD in Geosciences
Advisor: Dr. Sterling Nesbitt

Northern Kentucky University *Highland Heights, KY* August 2020 - May 2024
B.S. in Geology

PUBLICATIONS

1. Tolchard, F. B., **Perkins, B. W.**, and Nesbitt, S. J. (2025). Silesaurid (Archosauria: Dinosauriformes) remains from the base of the Dockum Group (Late Triassic: Otischalkian) of Texas provide new insights to the North American record of dinosauriforms. *The Anatomical Record* (early online publication): 1-21. https://doi.org/10.1002/ar.25677

PRESENTATIONS

Poster Presentations

1. **Perkins, B. W.**, and Reizner, J. A. (2023). The metabolic rate of *Einiosaurus procurvicornis* determined with phylogenetic eigenvector maps. *Society of Vertebrate Paleontology 2023 Program Guide*, p. 344

Oral Presentations

1. **Perkins, B. W.**, and Reizner, J. A. Using phylogenetic eigenvector maps to determine the metabolic rate of the horned dinosaur *Einiosaurus procurvicornis*. *Kentucky Academy of Science 2023 Annual Meeting Program*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Virginia Tech *Blacksburg, VA*
Graduate Teaching Assistant for GEOS 1104 - Intro to Earth Sciences Fall 2024

- Taught introductory geological concepts to classes of about 25 students each for three semesters, including grading student work, working with them one on one to understand concepts, and scheduling times for them to makeup assignments.
- Received high scores and good evaluations on SPOT (Student Perceptions of Teaching) surveys submitted anonymously by students.

- Promoted to head TA for two semesters; helped to prepare new teaching assistants for each week's content by providing presentations and guidance.

Northern Kentucky University *Highland Heights, KY*
Teaching Assistant for GLY 110L - Earth Science with Laboratory Fall 2022

- Assisted teaching and graded assignments from a lab of about 20 students on introductory geological topics including tectonics, mineralogy, and paleontology.
- Developed labs on paleontology and marine regression and transgression.

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Newport Aquarium *Newport, KY* October 2022 – July 2024
Guest Experience Specialist and Guest Experience Team Lead

Responsibilities as Guest Experience Team Lead

- Coordinate day to day operations on exhibits team, including creating daily exhibits schedule and keeping all aquarium touch positions operational
- Train new exhibits team members on each exhibit and touch position
- Develop new informational tools for exhibits staff to better enhance the educational experience for guests
- Monitor aquarium tanks and notify animal care team or engineering team as needed
- First Aid and CPR certified in order to respond to on-site emergency situations, such as guest injuries or locating missing children

Responsibilities as Guest Experience Specialist

- Educate guests on a variety of marine species ranging from echinoderms and cnidarians to sharks and rays
- Give daily talks to public audiences (50+ people) on sharks, sea turtles, shark rays, and penguins
- Inform guests of proper ways to interact with animals such as sharks, stingrays, and sea anemones at designated touch positions

NKU Center for Environmental Restoration *Highland Heights, KY* June 2023 - August 2023
Environmental Restoration Technician

- Identified and removed invasive plant species and plant native seed and cover crop at local project sites
- Assisted with stream restoration by filling substrate, digging trenchways, and laying bedrock
- Carried equipment and materials in ATV and pickup from project site to project site
- Used various survey techniques to assess the landscape and determine necessary steps for restoration

CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

- Describing the braincase of the silesaurid dinosauriform *Asilisaurus kongwe*
- Describing a new taxon of North American silesaurid
- Documenting the individual and ontogenetic variation in Silesauridae
- Phylogenetic analysis of the early dinosauriforms

GRANTS

- GSA Graduate Student Research Grant (2025)
- Virginia Tech $1000 Student Research Award (2025)

AWARDS

- Tillman Teaching Award for Introductory Courses (Virginia Tech; 2025)
- Outstanding Senior in Geology Award (Northern Kentucky University; 2024)

FIELDWORK

- Nova Scotia (Minas Basin); investigating the Triassic-Jurassic boundary (~2 weeks; June 2025)

OTHER RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

- Collections visit at Institute of Paleobiology and Museum of Evolution in Warsaw, Poland (1 week; July 2025)
- Collections visit at Fundy Geological Museum and Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History (5 days; June 2025)
- Screenwashing for microvertebrates for Virginia Tech Paleobiology Lab Group
- Collections visit at Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, PA (1 day; December 2024)

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

- Oversaw a table engaging members of the public of various ages at Virginia Tech Fossil Unwrapping Party (August 2024)

SKILLS

- Experience using softwares including:
    - Affinity Photo and Designer
    - Materialize Mimics
    - Abound (MetaScan)
    - ArcGIS
    - Google Earth Engine
    - R/RStudio
    - SPSS
    - ImageJ/Fiji
    - Microsoft Office
- Use of parametric and nonparametric statistical methods
- Surface scanning and photogrammetry
- Fossil preparation, including removing matrix, tagging, and housing a fossil
- Molding and casting methods
- Paleontological field methods (e.g., jacketing, tools, locating/identifying fossils)
- Screenwashing, sorting, and picking microvertebrate fossils
- Geophysical surveying including ground-penetrating radar
- Hydrological sampling
- Identifying, collecting, and releasing amphibians and reptiles

- Electrofishing and deep seining in stream ecosystems
- Small mammal and bird taxidermy
- Public speaking (academically and public-facing)
- CPR and First Aid