

# LESLIE EILEEN RUYLE

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### Education

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**Doctoral Candidate in Ecology.** Odum School of Ecology. University of Georgia, Athens, GA.  
August 2004- Present. Graduation date expected December 2010.

Advisor: Dr. John Maerz

**Bachelor of Science-** Interdisciplinary Studies; Double concentration- **Ecology and Biology.**  
Montana State University- Northern; Havre, MT. December 1994.

### Professional Experience

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**Independent Researcher.** December 2007- present.

Cayos Cochinos, Honduras.

Project: Dissertation on the Conservation of a Critically Endangered Iguana, *Ctenosaura melanosterna* in Cayos Cochinos, Honduras

- Population Viability Analysis and Population ecology of *C. melanosterna* using a four year mark/ recapture study in the Cayos Cochinos Archipelago
- Comparison of *C. melanosterna* densities, occupancies, between protected islands, human adulterated islands, and high density human populated islands.
- Past, present, and future recommendations of Iguanas in Central America: A group collaboration with TRAFFIC and members of the Iguana Specialist Group
- Conservation education in local schools

**Teaching Assistant.** August 2006- December 2006.

University of Georgia. Athens, Georgia.

Course: Ecology/ Biology 3500. Ecology for majors.

**Teaching Assistant.** January 2006- May 2006.

University of Georgia. Athens, Georgia.

Course: Ecology/ Biology 1108. Science for non-majors.

**Teaching Assistant.** August 2005- December 2005.

University of Georgia. Athens, Georgia.

Course: Ecology/ Biology 3500. Ecology for majors.

**Research Technician II.** January 2005- June 2005.

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. Gamboa, Panama.

Project: Measuring fitness traits in *Chelymorpha* infected with *Wolbachia*.

**Research Technician.** April 2003- August 2004.

Savannah River Ecology Laboratory. Aiken, South Carolina.

Project: River otter latrine characteristics and seasonal marking habits in South Carolina using GIS and walking transects.

**Research Coordinator.** January 2003-April 2003.

Baltimore Zoo. Baltimore, Maryland.

Project: Mountain Gorilla health assessment.

**Community Wildlife Project Advisor.** September 2000- December 2002.

Peace Corps and Nature Conservation Research Center. Upper West Region, Ghana.

Project: Creation of a wildlife reserve managed by indigenous people.

**Research Coordinator.** November 2000- December 2002.

Earthwatch. Upper West Region, Ghana.

Project: Ecological baseline surveys of the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary.

**Field Assistant.** November 2000- December 2002.

Earthwatch. Upper West Region, Ghana.  
Project: Herpetological surveys of the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary.  
**Research Coordinator.** August 2001- December 2002.  
Northern Arizona University. Upper West Region, Ghana.  
Project: Cordon Bleu (*Uraeginthus bengalus*) – Wasp (Rhopalidae) commensalism study.  
**Teaching Assistant.** July 2001.  
University of Calgary. Upper West Region, Ghana.  
Course: Field course.  
**Research Associate.** May 1997- September 2000.  
Procter and Gamble. Hunt Valley, Maryland.  
Projects: Supervised contractors in the US, Italy, and the UK. Created and scaled up formulations. Supervise process engineering in US plant.  
**Zookeeper.** February 1995-May 1997.  
Baltimore Zoo. Baltimore, Maryland.  
Mammal keeper; primates, cats, giraffes. Managed African hedgehog breeding colony.

## **Field Experience**

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**Biosphere Expeditions Volunteer.** Whales, dolphins, and turtles. May 2010.  
Azores, Portugal  
**Biosphere Expeditions Volunteer.** Arabian Leopards. February 2010.  
Dhofar region, Oman.  
**Earthwatch Volunteer.** Tarangire Migration. September 2008.  
Tarangire National Park, Tanzania.  
**Earthwatch Volunteer.** Penguins of Robben Island. May 2008.  
Robben Island, South Africa.  
**Earthwatch Volunteer.** Carnivores of the Cerrado. June 2007.  
Emas National Park, Brazil.  
**Earthwatch Volunteer.** South Africa's Brown Hyenas. August 2006.  
Cotocotuyoc, Huaró Valley, South Africa.  
**Earthwatch Volunteer.** Historic Bridges of China. July 2006.  
Zhejiang Province, China.  
**Earthwatch Volunteer.** Archeology of Peru's Huari Empire. August 2005.  
Cotocotuyoc, Huaró Valley, Peru.  
**Recruited Volunteer.** Herpetological surveys. February- June 2005.  
Omar Trujillos National Park, El Cope, Panama.  
**Earthwatch Volunteer.** Herpetological and bat surveys. December 2004.  
Pantanal, Brazil.  
**Independent study.** Namibian flora and fauna. January 2004.  
Sossusvli, Etosha National Park, Skeleton Coast, Huab, Windhoek, Namibia.  
**Earthwatch Volunteer.** Crocodiles of the Okavango Delta. December 2003.  
Okavango Swamps, Botswana.  
**Recruited Volunteer.** Geoffrey's Pied Colobus Monkey Project. September 2001.  
Boabeng-Fiema Monkey Sanctuary. Brong-Ahafo Region, Ghana.  
**Recruited Volunteer.** Mountain Gorilla Project. April 2001.  
Virunga National Park, Rwanda.  
**Independent study.** UCOTA (Uganda Community Tourist Association) Survey.  
March 2001. Head Office, Kampala, Mgahinga Community Campground,  
Bushara Island Camp, Uganda.

- Recruited Volunteer.** Malaysian Sun Bear Project. August 2000.  
Danum Valley, Sabah, Malaysia.
- Intern.** Colorado Division of Wildlife. January- May 1990.  
Greeley, Colorado.

### **Procural and Management of Grants**

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- Managed grant and authored quarterly progress reports and fund expenditure records for USAID at the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary.
- Authored operational needs assessment and corresponding action plan for the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary that, incorporated with 13 other sites, resulted in an \$800,000 USAID grant.
- Authored needs assessment and budget for Calgary Zoo, resulting in \$4,000 grant.
- Authored itinerary and field conditions advisory for Wechiau project for Earthwatch.

### **Education, Promotions and Mentoring Experience**

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- **Operation Wallacea Mentor.** June-July 2008.  
Cayos Cochinos, Honduras.
- **Worldwise Schools Mentor.** January- June 2005. Dallas, TX.
- **REU Mentor.** June- July 2004.  
Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, Aiken, South Carolina.
- **REU Mentor.** June- July 2003.  
Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, Aiken, South Carolina.
- **Advisor.** Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary. November 2000-December 2002.  
Wechiau, Upper West Region, Ghana.
- **Worldwise Schools Mentor.** August- May 2000. Zavala Elementary. McAllen, TX.
- **BBC World Radio Livelihood and Sustainability Interviewee.** August 2002. Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary, Ghana.
- **BBC AIDS Documentary Film Assistant.** March 2001. Kampala, Uganda.
- **BBC Wildlife and Community Conservation Documentary Host.** November 2000.  
Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary, Ghana.
- **High School Volleyball Coach.** August 1998- November 2000.  
Dulaney High School. Hunt Valley, Maryland.
- **Junior Olympic Volleyball Coach.** July 1997- July 2000.  
Time Out for Sports. Baltimore, Maryland.
- **Graduate Coaching Assistant.** May 1994- December 1994.  
Montana State University- Northern. Havre, Montana.

### **Oral Presentations**

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- Iguana Specialist Group (ISG) meetings, Dominica 2009. Presentation on Conservation of *C. melanosterna* in the Cayos Cochinos Archipelago.
  - Guest lecturer ECOL/BIOL 3500. “*Population Growth*”.
  - Ecology Peanut Butter Club guest speaker: “*Community Hippo conservation in West Africa*”.
  - Invited speaker: “*River Otters: The Water Jesters*”. Savannah River Ecology Laboratory Outreach Program. Teaching Teachers to Teach.
  - Invited speaker: “*Lions and Elephants and Hippos, Oh My*”. McAllen, TX; Zavala elementary school.
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## **Poster presentations**

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L.E. Ruyle, K.F. Gaines, T.L. Serfass, and J.M. Novak: “*River Otters, Lontra canadensis: Latrine characteristics and seasonal marking habits in South Carolina.*” Southeastern Evolution and Ecology Conference, Atlanta, Georgia. March 2004.

## **Scholarships and Awards**

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- Full athletic scholarship, 1990-1993.
- Current all-time kill leader for Montana State University- Northern volleyball team.
- MVP and team captain 1992-1993.

## **Additional Qualifications**

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- Dive Master, October 2009
- Emergency First Response, July 2009
- Reef Check EcoDiver, March 2009
- Rescue Diver certification, August 2008
- Advanced Diver certification, April 2008
- Open Water certification, April 2008
- Wilderness First Aid Certified (Wilderness Medical Associates). October 2005.
- Adult CPR certified (Wilderness Medical Associates). October 2005.
- Care and Prevention of Athletic Injuries. August 1998.
- First Aid and CPR (American Red Cross) August 1998.
- Conversant in Waale, African tribal language.
- Intermediate to advanced Spanish speaker