

Jonathan H. Geisler

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Education

Dr. Geisler graduated magna cum laude from the College of Charleston in 1995, with a B.A. in Biology and a B.S. in Geology. That year he was accepted into a joint program between the American Museum of Natural History and Columbia University, receiving a M.A. in 1998, a M. Phil. in 2000, and a Ph.D. in 2001 in Earth and Environmental Sciences from Columbia University. His primary graduate advisor was the late Malcolm McKenna, one of the foremost mammalian paleontologists in North America.

Teaching

While a graduate student, Dr. Geisler taught Comparative Anatomy Lab at Baruch College (NY, NY). In 2001, he became Curator of Paleontology and an Assistant Professor of Geology at Georgia Southern University (Statesboro, GA). There he taught courses on dinosaurs, historical geology, paleontology, and stratigraphy and sedimentology. In 2009 Dr. Geisler joined NYCOM as an Associate Professor of Anatomy, where he teaches lectures and labs.

Research

Dr. Geisler's primary area of research is the evolutionary history of mammals, with particular emphasis on Cetacea (whales, dolphins, and porpoises). In 2014 he and Dr. Brian Beatty (also in the Department of Anatomy) received a \$220,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to study the evolution of skull shape in cetaceans. In addition to being an author on papers that have named three new species, Dr. Geisler has published several large datasets that resolve relationships among mammals. Much of his work involves two related themes: 1) the unique information provided by the fossil record, and 2) that new perspectives can emerge when information from living species is combined with that from fossil species. Dr. Geisler is also a Research Associate of the National Museum of Natural History (Washington D.C.).

Service

From 2009–2012, Dr. Geisler has served as an editor for the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* and on the Romer Prize Committee (Society of Vertebrate Paleontology). He has served on Ph.D. and Masters committees for graduate students in Italy, New Zealand, and France. At NYIT he serves on the Academic Senate, the Curriculum Committee, and on various search committees. In 2015 he accepted the position of Acting Chair for the Department of Anatomy.

Selected Publications

Sanders, Albert E., and **Jonathan H. Geisler**. 2015. A new basal odontocete from the upper Rupelian of South Carolina, U.S.A., with contributions to the systematics of *Xenorophus* and *Mirocetus* (Mammalia, Cetacea). *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* e890107 (22 pages). doi:10.1080/02724634.2014.890107

Geisler, Jonathan H., Colbert, Matthew W., and James L. Carew. 2014. A new fossil species supports an early origin for toothed whale echolocation. *Nature* 508: 383–386. doi:10.1038/nature13086.

Montgomery, Stephen H., **Geisler, Jonathan H.**, McGowen, Michael R., Fox, Charlotte, Marino, Lori and John Gatesy. 2013. The evolutionary history of cetacean brain and body size. *Evolution* 67: 3339–3353. doi: 10.1111/evo.12197

John Gatesy, **Geisler, Jonathan H.**, Chang, Joseph, Buell, Carl, Berta, Annalisa, Meredith, Robert W., Springer, Mark S., and Michael R. McGowen. 2013. A phylogenetic blueprint for a modern whale, *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 66(2): 479–506

Geisler, Jonathan H., McGowen, Michael R, Yang, Guang, and John Gatesy. 2011. A supermatrix of genomic, morphological, and paleontological data from crown Cetacea. *BMC Evolutionary Biology* 11: 112 (33 pages. doi:10.1186/1471-2148-11-112).

Geisler, Jonathan H., and Jessica M. Theodor. 2009. Brief Communications Arising: Hippo and Whale Phylogeny. *Nature* 458: E1–E4. doi:10.1038/nature07776

Geisler, Jonathan H., and Mark D. Uhen. 2003. Morphological support for a close relationship between hippo and whales. *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* 23(4): 991–996.