

# J. Clint Perkins

[J.clint.perkins@ttu.edu](mailto:J.clint.perkins@ttu.edu)

PhD Student

Texas Tech University

## EDUCATION

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**PhD. Texas Tech University – Natural Resources Management** **Fall 2026**

*Dissertation:* Spatial ecology and resource selection by two uncommon Texas mephitids.

**M.S. Angelo State University – Biology** **Fall 2017**

*Thesis:* Conservation status of the eastern spotted skunk (*Spilogale putorius interrupta*) in Texas.

**B.S. Louisiana State University at Alexandria – Biology** **Fall 2011**

*Undergraduate Research:* Small mammal use of habitat at a forest-pasture transition.

## PUBLICATIONS

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Oliver, R. Y. et al. including J.C. Perkins. *In revision.* Interacting effects of human movement and landscape modification on birds and mammals. *Science.* 1-20.

Buck, K.B., J. Brown, M. Gabriel, R.C. Dowler, J.C. Perkins, D. Krejsa, and M.J. Yabsley. 2024. Diversity of *Babesia* spp. in skunks from selected states in the United States of American. *Parasite* 31:1-7. <https://doi.org/10.1051/parasite/2024043>

Benson, D.J., J.C. Perkins, K.P. Jefferson, R.C. Dowler, C.C. Rega-Brodsky, and R.D. Stevens. 2023. Examination of plains spotted skunk (*Spilogale interrupta*) burrow systems. *Southeastern Naturalist* 22:352-363.

**Perkins, J.C.**, A.A. Gibson, B.D. Wolaver, B.J. Labay, J.P. Pierre, and R.C. Dowler. 2022. An evaluation of detection methods for the plains spotted skunk. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 46:1-14.

Jefferson, K.P., S.L.A. Garcia, D.M. Krejsa, J.C. Perkins, S. Stevens, R.S. Matlack, and R.C. Dowler. 2022. Noteworthy records, range extensions, and conservation status of skunk species in Texas. *Occasional Papers* 384:1-16.

**Perkins, J.C.**, K.P. Jefferson, M.H. Hamilton, R.C. Dowler, and R.D. Stevens. 2021. Effects of seasonality and bait type on capture efficacy and sex ratio of plains spotted skunks. *Southeastern Naturalist Special Issue* 11:241-251.

Perry, R.W., D.B. Sasse. J.C. Perkins, and N.W. Sharp. 2021. Distribution and relative abundance of eastern spotted skunk records across their range. *Southeastern Naturalist Special Issue* 11:13-23.

## **PUBLICATIONS - CONTINUED**

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Gulas-Wroblewski, B.E., M. D. Luper, A.A. Gibson, J.C. Perkins, and R.C. Dowler. 2021. Itching for recognition: fungal dermatophytosis identified in an eastern spotted skunk (*Spilogale putorius*) population in Texas. *Southeastern Naturalist Special Issue* 11:191-198.

Shaffer, A.A., R.C. Dowler, J.C. Perkins, A.W. Ferguson, M.M. McDonough, and L.K. Ammerman. 2018. Genetic variation in the eastern spotted skunk (*Spilogale putorius*) with emphasis on the plains spotted skunk (*S. p. interrupta*). *Journal of Mammalogy* 99:1237-1248.

## **POPULAR PUBLICATIONS (INVITED)**

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Perkins, J.C. 2022. A spotty history. *The Wildlife Professional* 16(5): 26-30.

## **PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

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### **Texas Tech University: Lubbock, TX**

- Graduate Research Assistant (*Mephitis* project). January 2025 – Present.

### **Angelo State University: San Angelo, TX**

- Research Technician (Hooded skunk project). September 2023 – December 2024.

### **Texas Tech University: Lubbock, TX**

- Graduate Research Assistant (*Spilogale* ecology project). August 2018 – August 2023.

### **US Fish and Wildlife Service: Immokalee, FL**

- Biological Aide. Jan. 2018 – July 2018.

### **Angelo State University: San Angelo, TX**

- Graduate Assistant (Mammalogy; ASU Natural History Collections). Sept. 2017 – Dec. 2017.

### **US Forestry Service: Forest Hill CA**

- Wildlife Technician (Avian). May 2017 – July 2017.

### **Angelo State University: San Angelo, TX**

- Research Assistant (*Spilogale* project). June 2015 – August 2017.

## **PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS – CONTINUED**

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### **Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF): New Iberia, LA**

- Biologist I/II (Oil Spill Response). Dec. 2013 – May 2015.

### **US Fish and Wildlife Service: Devil's Lake, ND**

- Wildlife Technician (Waterfowl). May 2013 – Sep. 2013.

### **Utah State University: Dugway, UT**

- Lead Technician (Mesocarnivore Research). Feb. 2013 – May 2013.
- Wildlife Technician (Mesocarnivore Research). Nov. 2012 – Feb. 2013.

### **US Fish and Wildlife Service: Pingree, ND**

- Range Technician (Habitat Mapping). May 2012 – Oct. 2012.

### **University of Missouri: Ellington, MO**

- Research Technician (Small Mammal). Mar. 2012 – May 2012.

### **Colorado State University: Fort Polk, LA**

- Technician (Habitat Mapping). June – Aug. 2011.

## **SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS (Bold indicates presenter)**

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### **2024:**

**Perkins, J.C.**, R.C. Dowler, and R.D. Stevens. Negative effects of anthropogenic landcover alteration on plains spotted skunk occupancy. Texas Tech University, Department of Natural Resources Management. Lubbock, TX.

### **2023:**

**Perkins, J.C.**, M.H. Hamilton, K.P. Jefferson, R.C. Dowler, and R.D. Stevens. Assessment of landcover type and in-situ management on use of space by plains spotted skunks. Texas Society of Mammalogists. Junction, TX.

Benson, D.J., J.C. Perkins, K.P. Jefferson, R.C. Dowler, C.C. Rega-Brodsky, and R.D. Stevens. Examination of plains spotted skunk (*Spilogale interrupta*) burrow systems. Colloquium on the Conservation of Mammals in the Southeastern U.S. Jonesboro, AR.

### **2022:**

Hamilton, M.H., J.C. Perkins, K.P. Jefferson, and R.C. Dowler. Home range of sympatric striped skunks (*Mephitis*) and plains spotted skunks (*Spilogale*) in southeastern Texas. American Society of Mammalogists, Tucson, AZ.

## SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS – CONTINUED

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**Perkins, J.C.**, K.P. Jefferson, M.H. Hamilton, R.C. Dowler, and R.D. Stevens. Effects of seasonality and bait type on capture efficacy and sex ratio of plains spotted skunks. Texas Society of Mammalogists. Junction, TX.

### 2021:

**Perkins, J.C.**, K.P. Jefferson, M.H. Hamilton, R.C. Dowler, and R.D. Stevens. Effects of seasonality and bait type on capture efficacy and sex ratio of plains spotted skunks. Eastern Spotted Skunk Cooperative Study Group. 2021 Virtual Meeting.

Perry, R.W., D.B. Sasse, J.C. Perkins, and N.W. Sharp. Current distribution and relative abundance of eastern spotted skunks across their range. Eastern Spotted Skunk Cooperative Study Group. 2021 Virtual Meeting.

Jefferson, K.P., J.C. Perkins, M.H. Hamilton, and R.C. Dowler. Plains spotted skunk rest-site selection in response to southern dewberry and Macartney rose presence. Eastern Spotted Skunk Cooperative Study Group. 2021 Virtual Meeting.

Jefferson, K.P., J.C. Perkins, M.H. Hamilton, and R.C. Dowler. Role of native southern dewberry and invasive Macartney rose in plains spotted skunk rest-site selection. American Society of Mammalogists. 2021 Virtual Meeting.

Jefferson, K.P., J.C. Perkins, M.H. Hamilton, and R.C. Dowler. Rest site selection of plains spotted skunks (*Spilogale putorius interrupta*) in a highly altered prairie landscape. Texas Society of Mammalogists. 2021 Virtual Meeting.

Perry, R.W., D.B. Sasse, J.C. Perkins, and N.W. Sharp. Current distribution and relative abundance of eastern spotted skunks across their range. Southeastern Bat Diversity Network and Colloquium on the Conservation of Mammals in the Southeastern U.S., Virtual (Poster).

### 2020:

Jefferson, K.P., J.C. Perkins, M.H. Hamilton and R.C. Dowler. Rest site selection of plains spotted skunks (*Spilogale putorius interrupta*) in southeastern Texas. Texas Society of Mammalogists, Junction, TX (poster).

Hamilton, M.H., J.C. Perkins, K.P. Jefferson, and R.C. Dowler. Home range analysis of striped skunks (*Mephitis mephitis*) in southeastern Texas. Texas Society of Mammalogists, Junction, TX (poster).

**Perkins, J.C.**, K.P. Jefferson, M.H. Hamilton, R.C. Dowler, and R.D. Stevens. Update on plains spotted skunk spatial ecology project in southeastern Texas. Southeastern Bat Diversity Network and Colloquium on the Conservation of Mammals in the Southeastern U.S., Athens, GA.

## SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS – CONTINUED

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Jefferson, K.P, J.C. Perkins, M.H. Hamilton and R.C. Dowler. Rest site selection of plains spotted skunks (*Spilogale putorius interrupta*) in southeastern Texas. Southeastern Bat Diversity Network and Colloquium on the Conservation of Mammals in the Southeastern U.S., Athens, GA (poster).

### 2019:

**Perkins, J.C.**, K.P. Jefferson, M.H. Hamilton. R.C. Dowler, and R.D. Stevens. Preliminary Results: Spatial ecology of the plains spotted skunk (*Spilogale putorius interrupta*) in Texas. American Society of Mammalogists, Washington, DC (poster).

**Perkins, J.C.**, K.P. Jefferson, M.H. Hamilton. R.C. Dowler, and R.D. Stevens. Preliminary Results: Spatial ecology and population demographics of the plains spotted skunk (*Spilogale putorius interrupta*) in southeastern Texas. Texas Society of Mammalogists, Junction, TX (poster).

### 2018:

Dowler, R.C., J.C. Perkins, A.A. Shaffer, J.P. Pierre, and B.D. Wolaver. Current status of the plains spotted skunk in Texas. The eastern spotted skunk symposium, The Wildlife Society, Cleveland, OH.

Shaffer, A.A., R.C. Dowler, J.C. Perkins, A.W. Ferguson, M.M. McDonough, and L.K. Ammerman. Genetic variation in the eastern spotted skunk with emphasis on the plains spotted skunk subspecies. The eastern spotted skunk symposium, The Wildlife Society, Cleveland, OH.

**Perkins, J.C.**, R.D. Stevens, and R.C. Dowler. Future research into the plains spotted skunk (*Spilogale putorius interrupta*) in a tallgrass prairie ecosystem. American Society of Mammalogists, Manhattan, KS (poster).

Rollins, A.M., J.C. Perkins, A.A. Shaffer, and R.C. Dowler. Temporal differentiation in activity periods of selected mesocarnivores in Texas. Beta Beta Beta South Central Regional Convention, Cedar Hill, TX.

### 2017:

**Perkins, J.C.**, A.A. Shaffer, B.J. Wolaver, J.P. Pierre, B.J. Labay, and R.D. Dowler. Distribution of the plains spotted skunk in Texas. Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts: Endangered Species-Plains Spotted Skunk Webinar.

Gulas-Wroblewski, B.E., R. Gorchakov, J. Modarelli, A. Wheless, K.O. Murray, M.N. Garcia, R.C. Dowler, J. Perkins, A.A. Shaffer, M. Esteve-Gassent. Arthropod-borne emerging infectious diseases in Texas skunks: implications for public health and conservation medicine. Texas Branch: American Society of Microbiology.

**Perkins, J.C.**, A.A. Shaffer, N.W. Sharp, B.D. Sasse, and R.C. Dowler. Crowd sourcing, citizen scientists, and collecting novel data: the search for the eastern spotted skunk. Mesos in the Middle symposium, The Wildlife Society, Albuquerque, NM.

## SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS – CONTINUED

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Shaffer, A.A., J.C. Perkins, R.C. Dowler; L.K. Ammerman. Conservation Genetics of an Uncommon Mesocarnivore, the Eastern Spotted Skunk. Mesos in the Middle symposium, The Wildlife Society, Albuquerque, NM.

Dowler R.C., J.C. Perkins, A.A. Shaffer. Evaluating detection methods for a rare small carnivore, the eastern spotted skunk, *Spilogale putorius*. International Mammal Congress, Perth, Western Australia.

**Perkins, J.C.**, A.A. Shaffer, and R.C. Dowler. Status and distribution of the plains spotted skunk (*Spilogale putorius interrupta*) in Texas. American Society of Mammalogists, Moscow, ID.

**Perkins, J.C.**, A.A. Shaffer, and R.C. Dowler. Crowd sourcing, citizen scientists, and collecting nontraditional data: the search for the eastern spotted skunk. American Society of Mammalogists, Moscow, ID (poster).

Shaffer, A.A., J.C. Perkins, R.C. Dowler, and L.K. Ammerman. Genetic structure and differentiation within the eastern spotted skunk (*Spilogale putorius*): a microsatellite analysis. American Society of Mammalogists, Moscow, ID.

**Perkins, J.C.**, A.A. Shaffer, and R.C. Dowler. Current and historical distribution of an uncommon carnivore, the plains spotted skunk (*Spilogale putorius interrupta*), in Texas. Southwestern Association of Naturalists, Lawton, OK.

Shaffer, A.A., J.C. Perkins, R.C. Dowler, and L.K. Ammerman. Genetic structure and differentiation within the eastern spotted skunk (*Spilogale putorius*): A microsatellite analysis. Southwestern Association of Naturalists, Lawton, OK.

**Perkins, J.C.**, A.A. Shaffer, and R.C. Dowler. Surveying an uncommon mesocarnivore in Texas: the plains spotted skunk, *Spilogale putorius interrupta*. Texas Society of Mammalogists, Junction, TX.

### 2016:

**Perkins, J.C.**, A.S. Shaffer, and R.C. Dowler. An overview of detection methods for plains spotted skunks (*Spilogale putorius interrupta*) in Texas. American Society of Mammologists, Minneapolis, MN (poster).

Perkins, J.C., A.S. Shaffer, and R.C. Dowler. Conservation status of the plains spotted skunk (*Spilogale putorius interrupta*) in Texas, USA. Southwestern Association of Naturalists, Mexico City, Mexico (poster).

Dowler, R.C., J.C. Perkins, and A.S. Shaffer. Conservation status of plains spotted skunks in Texas. Spotted Skunk Cooperative Study Group @ Southeastern Bat Diversity Network and Colloquium on the Conservation of Mammals in the Southeastern U.S. Lake Guntersville State Park, AL.

### 2012:

**Perkins, J. C.** and Corbat, C.A. Small mammal diversity and abundance in pasture, interior forest, and a pasture-forest interface. Louisiana Academy of Sciences, Alexandria, LA.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND OUTREACH**

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### **2021**

- Skunks of Texas with an emphasis on plains spotted skunk ecology and survey methodology. Texas Master Naturalist Program – Goodwater Chapter Monthly Meeting.
- Manuscript Reviewer – Wildlife Society Bulletin.

### **2020**

- Plains spotted skunk ecology project update. East Texas Initiative of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.
- Manuscript Reviewer – Southeastern Naturalist.

### **2019**

- Plains spotted skunk: 2019 updates in Texas and Oklahoma. Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

### **2018**

- Introduction to the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge. Florida Panther NWR Open House.

### **2017**

- Conservation Status of Plains Spotted Skunks in Texas. Texas Master Naturalist Program – El Camino Real and Indian Hills Chapters and Fort Worth Nature Center and Preserve staff/volunteers.

### **2016**

- Conservation Status of Plains Spotted Skunks in Texas. Texas Master Naturalist Program – Rolling Plains Chapter.
- Mammals of Texas and the Concho Valley. Annual Fort Concho Math and Science Night.

### **2013:**

- Introduction to Management and Conservation of Coastal Lands. LSUA – Conservation Biology at Marsh Island WMA.

### **2009**

- An introduction to alligator hunting, skinning, and preparation in Louisiana. Louisiana Trappers and Alligator Hunters Association Youth Education Camp.

### **2008**

- An introduction to trapping LA furbearers. LTAHA Youth Education Camp.
- An introduction to trapping LA furbearers. LDWF Hunter's Education Instructors Camp.

\* From 2005 to 2015 (excluding 2012 and 2013), I was heavily involved in providing educational outreach and professional service on the topics of "Wild Alligator Hunting, Skinning, and Preparation in Louisiana" and "Trapping Louisiana Furbearers". I presented/participated at many events, such as LDWF Becoming an Outdoor Woman (2014 and 2015), National Hunting and Fishing Day (2005, 2007-2011, and 2014), National Turkey Federation – Avoyelles Chapter Jakes Day (2014), LDWF Hunter Education classes (2008 – 2011), LTAHA annual convention (2008 and 2009), many local Boy Scout and 4-H meetings, and many local Jr. and Sr. High Schools. Total presentations during this period are >40.

## **TEACHING (All are guest teaching invitations)**

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### **2023:**

- Nongame Ecology – TTU. Prepared and presented 7 lectures to satisfy TTU NRM Teaching Practicum.

### **2022:**

- Carnivore ecology (lecture). Nongame Ecology – TTU.

### **2021:**

- Capture methods for common Louisiana mesopredators (lab); Field restraint and work up of 2 Louisiana mesopredators (lab). Field Biology Techniques – LSUA.

### **2019:**

- Spatial ecology of the plains spotted skunk in southeastern Texas including capture, work up and tracking of a plains spotted skunk (lab). Field Biology Techniques – LSUA.

### **2017:**

- Detection methods for common Louisiana mesocarnivores (lab); Museum preparation and collection of biological samples from common mesocarnivores (lab). Field Biology Techniques – LSUA.

### **2013:**

- Field use of VHF radio telemetry (lab), Multiple methods to capture common Louisiana mesocarnivores (lab), Handling and taking standard biological measurements of common Louisiana mesocarnivores (lab). Field Biology Techniques – LSUA.
- The use of Microsoft Excel for biological research (lecture), Introduction to radio telemetry (lecture/lab). Field Biology Techniques – LSUA.

### **2011:**

- Introduction to fur trapping and nuisance trapping of common Louisiana furbearers (lecture and lab). Field Biology Techniques – LSUA.

### **2010:**

- Introduction to fur trapping methodology as a means of wildlife management. Principles of Wildlife Management – LSUA.

## **GRANTS AND CONTRACTS FUNDED**

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### **2020:**

- Extension and Amendment Number 1 to Inter-agency Contract Proposal for Endangered Species Research – Continued Study of the Plains Spotted Skunk. R.C. Dowler, J.C. Perkins, and R.D. Stevens. Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. **(\$207,805)**.

### **2019:**

- Citizen Scientist Trail Camera Surveys for Plains Spotted Skunks. J.C. Perkins. Prairie Biotic Research – Small Grants Program **(\$1500)**.

### **2018:**

- Inter-agency Contract Proposal for Endangered Species Research – Continued Study of the Plains Spotted Skunk. R.C. Dowler, J.C. Perkins, and R.D. Stevens. Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. **(\$421,611)**.

### **2017:**

- Angelo State University, Department of Biology - Head of River Ranch Student Travel Grant (Non-presenting) to attend the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society in San Antonio, TX **(\$500)**.

- Camera trapping surveys for plains spotted skunks (*Spilogale putorius interrupta*). J.C. Perkins and R.C. Dowler. Angelo State University Research Fellowship (**\$500**).

**2016:**

- Angelo State University, Department of Biology - Head of River Ranch Student Travel Grant (Presenting) to present: An overview of detection methods for plains spotted skunks (*Spilogale putorius interrupta*) in Texas at the annual American Society of Mammologist meeting in Minneapolis, MN (**\$1,500**).
- Camera Trapping Surveys for Plains Spotted Skunks (*Spilogale putorius interrupta*). J.C. Perkins and R.C. Dowler. Angelo State University Graduate Research Fellowship (**\$500**).

**2011:**

- Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) Technology for the Department of Biological Science. C.A. Corbat and J.C. Perkins. Louisiana State University at Alexandria Student Technology Fee (**\$3737**).

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

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**2024:**

- Second place in the graduate 3-Minute Thesis competition at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Texas Tech University, Department of Natural Resources Management Research Day in Lubbock, Texas. Negative effects of anthropogenic landcover alteration on plains spotted skunk occupancy.

**2022:**

- Texas Society of Mammalogists Robert Packard Award (Best Overall Oral Presentation) at 40<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Junction Texas. Effects of seasonality and bait type on capture efficacy and sex ratio of plains spotted skunks (**\$500**).

**2021:**

- G.R. White Trust Endowed Fellowship. Department of Natural Resources Management, Texas Tech University (**\$1000**).

**2020:**

- Mammal Challenge Winner. Texas Society of Mammalogists.
- Mammal Track Challenge Winner. Texas Society of Mammalogists.

**2017:**

- American Society of Mammalogists Travel Award to attend annual meeting in Moscow, ID. Crowd sourcing, citizen scientists, and collecting nontraditional data: the search for the eastern spotted skunk (**\$400**).
- El Camino Real Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist Program Presenter Award to presenter: The Conservation Status of Plains Spotted Skunks in Texas at the monthly chapter meeting in Milam, TX (**\$150**).

**2012**

- Louisiana Academy of Sciences Award for Best Undergraduate Presentation in Agriculture, Forestry, and Wildlife. Small mammal diversity and abundance in pasture, interior forest, and a pasture-forest interface (**\$100**).

## 2011

- Association of Louisiana Bass Clubs Scholarship for LSUA Junior/Senior Students in Biology and/or Criminal Justice (**\$500**).

## **Professional Appointments (Other)**

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**Assistant Nuisance Alligator Hunter.** LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. 2008 –2011.

**Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator.** LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. 2002 – 2010.

## **Professional Affiliations**

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American Society of Mammalogists (2016 to present)

- Lifetime Membership (2019)

Texas Society of Mammalogists (2016 to present)

- Patron Member (2020)

Eastern Spotted Skunk Cooperative Study Group (2015 to present)

- Advisory Committee (2020 to present)

The Wildlife Society (2011 to present)

- The 1000 (2018 to present)
- Texas Chapter (2017 to present)

Southwestern Association of Naturalists (2016 to 2017)

Louisiana Wildlife Federation (2014 to 2015)

Louisiana Native Plant Society (2012 to 2013)

LSUA Biological Sciences Organization (2010 to 2012)

- (Vice President 2011)

Louisiana Trappers and Alligator Hunters Association (2003 to 2011)

- Board of Directors – Member at Large (2009-2010)