

STELLA VENN

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EDUCATION

Washington University School of Medicine <i>PhD Student in Evolutionary Biology</i>	2025–Present <i>St. Louis, MO</i>
Rhodes College <i>BS in Integrative Biology</i>	2021–2025 <i>Memphis, TN</i>

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Doctoral Researcher <i>Losos Lab, Johnathan Losos, PhD; Kautt Lab, Andreas Kautt, PhD</i>	2025–Ongoing
· Functional morphology of domestic dogs and cats	
Undergraduate Researcher <i>Shapes and Scales Lab, Kelly Diamond, PhD</i>	2023–2025
· Led an independent research project studying the morphology of brachycephaly in domestic dog breeds	
· Maintained and restored the morphological teaching collection	
Undergraduate Researcher <i>Boyle Lab, Sarah Boyle, PhD</i>	2022–2023
· Studied spatial-temporal patterns of stereotypic behavior in African elephants to improve animal welfare at the Memphis Zoo	

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

Rhodes College Biology Research Award (\$300)	2025
· Awarded for outstanding independent research in biology	
Rhodes Independent Research Fellowship (\$6,070)	2024
· Funded research on canine cranial anatomy; collected photogrammetry data at the KU Biodiversity Institute	
Rhodes Research Fellowship with the Memphis Zoo	2022
· Studied the use of spatial-behavioral data to decrease stereotypic behavior in resident elephants	
Tri Beta Honors Society	Ongoing
Washington University Summer Symposium — Student Poster Award	2019
· Awarded for a poster on the effects of limited gravity on human morphology	

PRESENTATIONS

Brachycephalic Breeds Exhibit Size-Dependent Cranial Shape <i>S. Venn, N. Hebdon, K. Diamond — Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology International Conference; Portland, OR</i>	January 2026
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Post-Rostral Variation in CanidsMay 2025

S. Venn, N. Hebdon, S. Kessler, and K. Diamond — Rhodes Symposium; Memphis, TN. Awarded the Rhodes Biology Research Award.

Neurocranial Variation in Canids: Insights on Artificial Selection from Geometric MorphometricsJanuary 2025

S. Venn, N. Hebdon, S. Kessler, and K. Diamond — Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology International Conference; Atlanta, GA. Accepted as a finalist for the Best Student Poster Competition.

Standardized Protocol for 3D Modeling of Canine Cranial AnatomyMay 2024

S. Venn, S. Kessler, and K. Diamond — Rhodes Symposium; Memphis, TN

Spatial-Behavioral Patterns in African ElephantsMay 2023

M. Harris, H. Stuart, S. Venn, S. Kessler, Y. Li, and S. Boyle — Rhodes Symposium; Memphis, TN

Don't Bring Me Down: Human Biological Responses to Minimal GravityJuly 2019

S. Venn et al. — Washington University; St. Louis, MO

TEACHING

Biology of Mammals	2026
Teaching Assistant	Washington University, St. Louis, MO
Introduction to Biology	2025
Student Instructor	Rhodes College, Memphis, TN
Comparative Vertebrate Morphology	2024
Laboratory Teaching Assistant	Rhodes College, Memphis, TN
Introduction to Biology	2024
Student Instructor	Rhodes College, Memphis, TN

ADDITIONAL RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Veterinary Shadowing (404 hours)	2023
Jason Gagné, DVM, DACVIM — board-certified nutritionist, Purina, St. Louis, MO (10 hours)	
Emily Cross, DVM, DABVP — board-certified nutritionist, Purina, St. Louis, MO (12 hours)	
Vandre Clear, DVM — board-certified dermatologist, Animal Skin and Allergy, St. Louis, MO (300 hours)	
Ferry, DVM, and Kersting, DVM — board-certified avian specialists, Kersting's Bird Medicine and Surgery, St. Louis, MO	
Jen Clay, DVM — general practitioner, Utopia, Memphis, TN (5 hours)	

REFERENCES

Jonathan Losos
Distinguished Professor of Biology, Washington University in St. Louis
· Losos@wustl.edu

Andreas Kautt
Assistant Professor of Biology, Washington University in St. Louis

· Kautt@wustl.edu

Kelly Diamond

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