

Lauren McKinley

Career Interests

I seek a career in natural history collections management with a focus on herpetology. My interests include specimen digitization using advanced imaging methods such as CT scanning and photogrammetry, the development and maintenance of best practices for wet collection curation and management, and improving accessibility and research value of collections through modern data and imaging workflows.

Education

The University of Kansas

August 2023 - May 2026

Bachelors of Science in Ecology, Evolutionary, & Organismal Biology

Relevant coursework: Herpetology, Natural History Curation & Collections Management, Photography.

The University of Kansas

May 2026 - PRESENT

Masters of Arts in Museum Studies (Expected Spring of 2028)

Publications & Presentations

Motta A, Moraes LJCL, Weldon A, **McKinley L**, Brown JL. Correction of the holotype and type locality of *Dendrobates duellmani* Schulte, 1999 (Anura: Dendrobatidae). *Zootaxa*. 2025 Sep 16;5693(1):148-150. doi: 10.11646/zootaxa.5693.1.10. PMID: 41118997.

McKinley L, Weldon A, Meneses C, Pitogo K, Supsup C, Decena S, Motta A. 2024. Overview of specimens from Kansas deposited at the KU Herpetology Collection. Poster presented at the Kansas Herpetological Society Annual Meeting, Hays, KS.

McKinley L, Meneses C, Supsup C, Pitogo K, Decena S, Viscek A, Cannon H, Motta A. 2025. The Bunker Resurvey Project: Preliminary assessment of herpetofaunal diversity & composition. Poster presented at the Kansas Herpetological Society Annual meeting in Manhattan, KS.

Professional Experience

University of Kansas Biodiversity Institute Division of Herpetology - Curatorial Assistant

July 2024 - PRESENT

Managed specimen loan processing and returns, contributed to holotype digitization efforts, conducted specimen inventories, presented collections-based research at conferences, and assisted with daily operational tasks to ensure proper collection management.

University of Kansas Natural History Museum & Biodiversity Institute - Visitor Experience Team

May 2025 - PRESENT

Collected and processed daily donations and memberships, managed gift shop sales and operations, cleaned glass and signage, assisted

visitors with questions regarding exhibits and research.

University of Kansas Biodiversity

Institute - *Herpetology Field Team*

Summers of 2024, 2025, & 2026

Collected and prepared specimens, documented measurements and data for scientific research, and maintained high IACUC standards.

PetSmart- *Associate Lead with Keys*

November 2022 - PRESENT

Managed daily business operations of staff and cash handling, ensured high standards of animal care and health.