

NIKOLAI G. VETR

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EDUCATION

- PhD** University of California, Davis Currently in Progress
Anthropology Department (Evolutionary Wing)
Affiliate Member of the Center for Population Biology
- BA** Vanderbilt University May 2013
Graduated *summa cum laude*
Majored in Earth Sciences and Evolutionary Biology

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Summer Research Grant** 2015
A grant given by the Anthropology Department at the University of California, Davis to fund summer research
- NSF Graduate Research Fellowship** 2015
A fellowship awarded by the National Science Foundation providing three years of financial support to students pursuing research-based graduate degrees
- Summer Research Grant** 2014
A grant given by the Anthropology Department at the University of California, Davis to fund summer research
- Graduate Scholars Fellowship** 2013
A fellowship offered by the University of California, Davis to twelve incoming PhD and MFA students each year
- Departmental Honors in Earth and Environmental Sciences** 2013
Earned for the completion of an Honors Thesis at Vanderbilt University in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences
- Eugene H. Vaughan Undergraduate Research Assistantship in Geology** 2012
A research assistantship in the Earth and Environmental Sciences Department at Vanderbilt University for work in stable isotope ecology

- Travel grant for presentation of research at an academic conference** 2012
A travel grant given by Vanderbilt University to present work at the 2012 Meeting of the Southeast Association of Vertebrate Paleontology
- Vanderbilt Undergraduate Summer Research Program Grant** 2012
A grant given to perform summer research on marsupial stable isotope ecology at Vanderbilt University
- Ross Family Scholarship** 2011
A scholarship awarded to geology students at Vanderbilt University who demonstrate academic distinction and financial need
- National Merit Scholarship** 2009
Awarded by Vanderbilt University for performance on the PSAT

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- University of California, Davis, CA** 2015
Associate Instructor, Anthropology Department
- During Summer Session I (2015), I independently taught the class “ANT 152”, an upper-division course on human evolution and paleoanthropology. In teaching this course, I created or modified all the lab and lecture materials, wrote the assignments and tests, presented the lectures, oversaw the labs, and did all the grading. Student evaluations from the course are available upon request.
- University of California, Davis, CA** 2014 to 2015
Teaching Assistant, Anthropology Department
- I have taught a total of seven discussion sections for the course “ANT 001 – Human Evolutionary Biology” and three discussion sections for “ANT 152 – Human Evolution”. Student evaluations for these courses are available upon request. I have also given guest lectures on various subjects.
- University of California, Davis, CA** 2013 to Present
Human Evolution Outreach Participant, Anthropology Department
- I give and help give lectures on human evolution to elementary and middle school students visiting UC-Davis.
- Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN** 2012
Teaching Assistant, Biology Department
- I taught a lab section of an undergraduate introductory biology course. Each week, I directed laboratory activities, designed and graded quizzes and assignments, and held office hours.

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

2012 to 2013

High School Student Mentor, Earth and Environmental Sciences Department

- As a student researcher working with Dr. Larisa DeSantis at Vanderbilt University, I advised and taught research techniques to the high school students in our lab.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student, University of California, Davis, CA

2013 to Present

Advisor: Dr. Tim Weaver

- Right now I'm developing statistical methods to infer evolutionary trees using discrete traits expressed in human tooth enamel and continuous traits expressed in the human skeleton. Recently, this involved visiting the AMNH to sample their Biological Anthropology Collections and meet with and be trained by Dr. Shara Bailey, an expert on human dentition. I am also interested in testing questions of adaptive evolution by applying recently developed phylogenetic comparative methods to a globally distributed collection of human morphological data, working to improve the documentation for the Arizona State Dental Anthropology System using 3D modeling, and exploring methods for distinguishing group membership using discrete dental traits.

Student Researcher, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

2012 to 2013

Advisor: Dr. Larisa DeSantis

- I examined how environmental and ecological conditions were recorded in enamel stable isotope ratios (carbon and oxygen) for several marsupial taxa throughout Australasia.
- I also looked at how latitude and latitudinal range covaried through time for a large number of fossil taxa to test mechanistic hypotheses for Rapoport's Rule (the positive correlation between species' latitudes and latitudinal ranges).

Archaeological Excavator, Savignac-de-Miremont, France

2013

- During the Summer 2013 field season I helped in excavation efforts ongoing at *La Ferrassie*, a Neandertal archaeological site in Southern France.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Publications

Veter, N.*, DeSantis, L., Yann, L., et al. 2013 Is Rapoport's Rule a Recent Phenomenon? A Deep Time Perspective on Potential Causal Mechanisms. *Biology Letters* 9(5): 1-5. DOI: 10.1098/rsbl.2013.0398

DeSantis, L., **Veter, N.**, Romer, J. University students' acceptance of climate change and evolution: are skeptics just anti-science? *PLOS ONE* (In revision)

Conference Papers

Lashinsky, N. & DeSantis, L. Assessing how the extant lesser forest-wallaby *Dorcopsulus vanheurni* and Lumholtz's tree kangaroo *Dendrolagus lumholtzi* record their environment: establishing a baseline for studies of extinct marsupials. Poster session presented at: 5th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Association of Vertebrate Paleontology. August 9-11, 2012; Boone, NC.

Desantis, L., **Lashinsky, N.**, Romer, J., Greshko, M., and Loffredo, L. University Students' Acceptance of Climate Change and Evolution: Are Skeptics just Anti-Science? Poster session presented at: 73rd Annual Meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology. October 30 – November 2, 2013; Los Angeles, CA.

Lashinsky, N., DeSantis, L. Yann, S. Donohue, and R. Haupt. 2013 Is Rapoport's Rule a Recent Phenomenon? A Deep Time Perspective on Potential Causal Mechanisms. Oral session presented at: 73rd Annual Meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology. October 30 – November 2, 2013; Los Angeles, CA.

**note: My legal surname has, in the past, been "Lashinsky".*

LANGUAGES

English: Native Language

Russian: Native Language

Spanish: Intermediate Proficiency at Listening and Speaking, Advanced Reading and Writing

OTHER

- As an avid outdoorsperson, I have coordinated and lead many hiking, backpacking, and climbing trips of varying group size over distances typically between 50-150km, but ranging upwards to 1,300km, and have also backpacked through several countries.
- GRE Scores: 169 (V), 170 (Q), 5.5 (W)