

Brianna M. Wilson

brianna.mon.wilson@gmail.com
(785) 501-9474

bwkkg@umsystem.edu

apennyforyourbooks.blog
Lawrence, Kansas 66047

Education

MFA University of Missouri – Kansas City; Kansas City, Missouri *In Progress 2025-2028*
Creative Writing; Fiction

Completed Classes: EN 5547 Intro to Literary Criticism
EN 5549C Publication practicum, Fiction/Non/Fiction podcast

BS Washburn University 2021-2023; Topeka, Kansas
Bachelor of Science in Environmental Biology; Overall GPA: 3.66

Additional credits:

University of New England 2022 (4 credit hours)
Kansas State University 2019-2021 (42 credit hours)
Colby Community College 2021(8 credit hours)
Allen Community College 2020 (6 credit hours)

Undergraduate Honors

Magna Cum Laude Latin Honors Upon Graduation Spring 2023
Biology Honors Upon Graduation Spring 2023
Dean's List Fall 2019 – Spring 2022

Publications

Wilson B, Kim S, Trautman A, Brighton K, Guldner E, Edlund Z, Wagner P, Speer T, Munsell K, Mercader RJ, Reed B. 2025. Investigation of field and laboratory-based personality traits in a wild ornate box turtle (*Terrapene ornata*) population. *Behav Ecol Sociobiol* 79(6):71.
doi:[10.1007/s00265-025-03611-6](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00265-025-03611-6).

There are 2 additional co-authored research papers currently in submission/under review.

Recent Employment History

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America February 2026 - Present

Part-time Administrative Coordinator

Current job working in a part-time, paid position (25 hours/week) during graduate school. I communicate with members via email and phone and provide project support by compiling notebooks, supporting meeting logistics, generating reports, and preparing additional correspondences.

Books-A-Million August 2025 - Present

Keyholder/Bookseller

Current job working in a part-time, paid position (5-25 hours/week) during graduate school. I aid customers, work register, organize and shelve books, and keep up with the latest publishing trends. I moved down from keyholder to work at GCSAA, but will continue for approximately 5 hrs/wk.

Studenttreasures Publishing February 2025 - July 2025

Customer Service Agent

Worked in a full-time, paid position (32-55 hours/week) in Topeka, KS as an online, ticket-based customer service agent. I resolved customer issues, effectively communicated to de-escalate clients,

submitted IT tickets, and worked with our team to improve business effectiveness and efficiency. I left in order to pursue an MFA degree at UMKC.

Long-Term Substitute; Library Media Specialist

September 2024 - December 2024

Elementary School Library

Fall Semester

Worked in a full-time, paid position (36+ hours/week) in Topeka, KS at Randolph Elementary School. I created and taught lessons, organized books, processed checkouts through Destiny, ordered new books, and helped out as needed, among other responsibilities.

KC Pet Project

July 2023 - April 2024

Canine Adoption Counselor

Worked in a full-time, paid position (36+ hours/week) in KC, MO facilitating dog adoptions for the animal shelter. Also performed secretarial duties, customer service, and assisted with canine care as needed. Maddie's University CE (4.5 hours) and Fear Free Certified.

Family Pet Hospital

April 2022 – May 2023

Kennel Technician Employment Position

Worked in a part-time (12-16 hours/week) paid position in Topeka, KS during college providing care to boarding animals. Helped around the clinic as needed.

Tender Loving Care Pet Nursing Hotel

June 2021 – December 2022

Kennel Assistant Employment Position

Worked in a paid, part-time (8-32 hours/week) position in Topeka, KS during college. Answered phones, cleaned kennels, cared for animals, provided medication, and performed transactions.

TimberCreek Veterinary Hospital

Nov 2020 - June 2021

Kennel Technician Employment Position

Worked in a part-time (20 hours/week) paid position in Manhattan, KS during college. Primarily cared for boarding pets. Learned general veterinary practices such as medication administration, vaccine preparation, fecal test performance, animal restraint, and client assistance.

Research Experience

Washburn University; Ornate Box Turtle Telemetry

Fall 2021 - Summer 2024

Research Assistance (60 hours)

Supervised by Dr. Benjamin Reed

Assisted in the use of radio telemetry to locate Ornate Box Turtles. Recorded information regarding microhabitat and behavior, occasionally collecting individual turtles to bring to the lab and assist with behavioral assays. When in the lab, the turtles are observed in behavior assays and processed by taking photos, measurements, collecting oral DNA swabs, and more.

Washburn University; Cognition/Behavior Summer Research

Summer 2022 - Spring 2024

Research Project (15 weeks)

Summer Research at Cedar Point Biological Station; Supervised by Dr. Benjamin Reed

Developed a study on Box Turtle cognition. Designed and implemented the study throughout Summer 2022. In Summer 2023, conducted field study to compare lab and field behavior data. Used radio telemetry to locate turtles and recorded relevant information for both summers. Presented findings at multiple conferences.

Presentations

Primary author:

Kansas Herpetological Society Research Conference (Poster) November 4, 2023

Comparison of Field and Lab Behavior and Mirror Responses of Ornate Box Turtles (*Terrapene ornata*)

Wilson B, Kim S, Trautman A, Brighton K, Gulder E, Wagner P, Mercader R, Reed BM. 2023. Comparison of field and lab behavior and mirror responses of Ornate Box Turtles (*Terrapene ornata*) in Nebraska. Kansas Herpetological Society Meetings, Kansas University, Lawrence, KS.

North American Box Turtle Conservation Committee (Poster) September 30, 2023

Comparison of Field and Lab Behavior and Mirror Responses of Ornate Box Turtles (*Terrapene ornata*)

Wilson B, Kim S, Trautman A, Brighton K, Gulder E, Wagner P, Mercader R, Reed BM. 2023. Comparison of field and lab behavior and mirror responses of Ornate Box Turtles (*Terrapene ornata*) in Nebraska. North American Box Turtle Conservation Workshop. University of North Georgia, Gainesville, GA.

Apeiron Conference at Washburn (Poster) April 21, 2023

Ecological consequences of cognition in *Terrapene Ornata*

Wilson B, Wagner P, Brighton K, Chanay M, Gauntt A, Kim S, Munsell K, Trautman A, Speer T, Wagner S, Reed BM. 2022. Ecological Consequences of Cognition in *Terrapene ornata*. Apeiron. Washburn University, Topeka, KS.

Midwest Ecology and Evolution Conference (Poster) April 2, 2023

Learning and BT in *Terrapene ornata*

Wilson B, Wagner P, Brighton K, Chanay M, Gauntt, A, Kim S, Munsell K, Trautman A, Speer T, Wagner S, Reed BM. 2022. Learning and BT in *Terrapene ornata*. Midwest Ecology and Evolution. University of Louisville, Louisville, KY.

Kansas Herpetological Society Research Conference (Poster) Nov 6, 2022

Learning and BT in *Terrapene ornata*

Wilson B, Wagner P, Brighton K, Chanay M, Gauntt, A, Kim S, Munsell K, Trautman A, Speer T, Wagner S, Reed BM. 2022. Learning and BT in *Terrapene ornata*. Kansas Herpetological Meetings. Missouri Southern State University, Joplin, MO.

Co-Author:

Washburn Transformational Experience Conference (Poster) Nov 10, 2023

Guldner E, Munsell K, Brighton K, Trautman A, **Wilson B**, Wagner P, Speer T, Edlund Z, Reed BM. 2023. Examining factors that may affect nesting times of Ornate Box Turtles in Western Nebraska. Day of Transformation, Washburn University, Topeka, KS

KHS Research Conference (Poster) Nov 4, 2023

Guldner E, Munsell K, Brighton K, Trautman A, **Wilson B**, Wagner P, Speer T, Edlund Z, Reed BM. 2023. Examining factors that may affect nesting times of Ornate Box Turtles in Western Nebraska. Kansas Herpetological Society Meetings, Kansas University, Lawrence, KS.

KHS Research Conference (Poster) Nov 4, 2023

Lewis M, Schenk C, Speer T, Pierre R, Prout-Benoit M, Graham T, Kearns C, Brighton K, Edlund Z, Gulder E, Kim S, Munsell K, Trautman A, Wagner P, **Wilson B**, Reed BM. 2023. Comparative analyses of microhabitat associations across different populations of *Terrapene ornata*. Kansas Herpetological Society Meetings, Kansas University, Lawrence, KS.

- Walter Meshaka Award for Best Poster in Ecology

KHS Research Conference (Poster)

Nov 4, 2023

Speer T, Brighton K, Edlund Z, Gulder E, Kim S, Munsell K, Trautman A, Wagner P, **Wilson B**, Reed BM. 2023. Movement ecology of Ornate Box Turtles (*Terrapene ornata*) across different life stages. Kansas Herpetological Society Meetings, Kansas University, Lawrence, KS.

NABTCC Research Conference (Poster)

Sep 30, 2023

Speer T, Brighton K, Edlund Z, Gulder E, Kim S, Munsell K, Trautman A, Wagner P, **Wilson B**, Reed BM. 2023. Movement ecology of Ornate Box Turtles (*Terrapene ornata*) across different life stages. North American Box Turtle Conservation Workshop. University of North Georgia, Gainesville, GA.

KHS Research Conference (Poster)

Nov 4-6, 2022

Brighton K, Munsell K, Gauntt A, Speer T, Trautman A, Wagner P, **Wilson B**, Reed BM. 2022. Examining the reproductive ecology of *Terrapene ornata* in western Nebraska. Kansas Herpetological Meetings. Missouri Southern State University, Joplin, MO.

Grants

Student Research Development Grant

Feb 22, 2023

Washburn Student Government Association Grant

Proposed and received \$2000 grant with co-researcher to attend the Conference on Comparative Cognition in Melbourne, Florida, April 12-15, 2023.

WTE Research Grant

Nov 11, 2022

Washburn Transformational Experience Grant

Wrote and received a \$1000 grant to continue Box Turtle research during Summer 2023.

Internships

Topeka Zoo and Conservation Center

Fall 2021

Animal Care Internship

Part time (9 hours/week) semester internship position focused around daily zookeeper tasks. Learned skills in habitat cleanliness, animal diets, cognitive enrichment, and animal behavior throughout the entire zoo. Completed a pronghorn enrichment project and presented my design and findings.

University Involvement

New Letters Magazine Practicum

Spring 2026 (in progress)

UMKC MFA Class which offers real-life experience working on the university's revered literary journal. We will be reviewing submissions and working on the journal through the entire publication process.

Fiction / Non / Fiction Podcast Practicum

Fall 2025

UMKC MFA Class which offered real-life experience working on Literary Hub's podcast hosted by Whitney Terrel and V.V. Ganeshanathan. On each fall episode we worked on script writing and research, interview review, and sound/video edits. We also produced 2 episodes from scratch of our own newly developed podcast.

Washburn University Undergraduate Biology Club

Fall 2021 - Spring 2023

Positions

- Co-Historian: Work on social media presence-post informational and educational content, take photos/videos (Feb 1, 2023-May 15, 2023 upon graduation)

Activities

- Bird Banding (10 hours): learned process by in-person observation
- Attended guest speaker seminars
 - Dr. Erika Weirman ultrasound seminar and demonstration (April 25, 2022)
- Participated in creation of ecological audio tour of Washburn's campus koi pond
- Gave a 5-minute presentation over epigenetics of trauma (Nov 16, 2022)
- Gave a 5-minute presentation over "dognition" research from Dr. Gregory Berns' lab (Nov 16, 2022)

Club Volunteering

- Assist in collection and management of 2 and 5 plastics from Washburn and local businesses to donate to NexTrex (1 hour/week, Spring 2023, Topeka, KS)
- Co-host adaptations-themed rotation for Christ the King 3rd grade field trip (3/3/23, 2 hours, Topeka, KS)
- Worked Biology stand at Majors and Minors Fair at Washburn University (2/22/23, 1 hour, Topeka, KS)
- Fundraising for KAW River Restoration (2 hours, Topeka, KS)
- Trash clean up at Shunga Creek (2 hours, Topeka, KS)

Kansas State University Equestrian Club

Fall 2020

Photographer

I attended team meetings, participated in discussion, helped at the ranch, and took photographs during practice and competitions for the team.

Volunteer and Outreach

Gender-Affirming Closet; Kansas City, Missouri

November 8, 2025

Assist with clothing drive (2 hours)

I participated in GAC's clothing drive by helping to set up large quantities of donated clothes.

French Middle School; Topeka, Kansas

April 4, 2024

Assist with Guest Speaker Outreach (2 hours)

I participated in a group guest speaker event with one other student and Dr. Reed to talk to middle school classes about box turtle ecology and conservation.

KC Pet Project; Home Dog Foster

December 9 - December 22, 2023

In-Home Pet Fostering (2 weeks)

I brought a shelter pet into my home to care for and prepare for adoption (Ollie).

Ad Astra; Topeka, Kansas

April 22, 2023

Volunteer Demonstration (3 hours)

I gave a demonstration/explanation of radio telemetry and discussed turtle ecology and significance to children of a broad age range.

Operation Wildlife; Lawrence, Kansas

February 22, 2022 – December 22, 2022

Animal Rehabilitation Volunteer (130+ hours)

I learned and practiced skills necessary to help rehabilitate displaced and injured wildlife. I continue to volunteer as my schedule allows.

Young Nebraska Scientists; Ogallala, Nebraska

June 9, 2022

Volunteer Research Presentation

I gave a field presentation over the scientific process of my cognition research to a group of YNS students at Cedar Point Biological Station.

T. Russell Reitz Animal Shelter; Manhattan, Kansas Sep 29, 2020 – Feb 23, 2021

Facility Volunteer (9 hours)

I kept up with the cleanliness of the building: completed laundry, swept, mopped, wiped surfaces, and cleaned dishes. I only stopped volunteering here after moving back to Topeka.

Skills

- Analytical and creative writing
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Products
- Problem solving/creative thinking
- Effective communication skills
- Attention to detail
- Non-profit experience
- Customer service
- Writing/editing
- Creating learning material
- Literature research
- Accurate documentation
- Familiarity with WordPress blog building
- Teamwork/collaboration
- Cash handling
- Company membership sales
- One-on-one student interactions

Faculty Reference: Dr. Anthony Shiu

Email: shiu@umkc.edu

Work Phone: (816) 235-2765

Availability: This summer and fall I hope to continue working at GCSAA in Lawrence, but they have extremely flexible hours and have suggested that hour reduction will definitely be possible. They primarily work M-F but have allowed weekend work in the past. This summer I will have no classes, and this fall I will enroll in 6 credit hours as an MFA student (evening classes).