

SEOE Newsletter

Term: Spring 2024 | Issue 18 January 2024

Undergraduate Office

Spring 2024 SEOE enrollment

Degree Programs by the Numbers

Program	Enrollment
ENVR	142
ENVS	148
GEOL	39
MSCI	184

Look how smart our students are!!

PRESIDENT'S & DEAN'S LIST SPRING 2024

54% of SEOE students made the list!!

Great Job Students!!

Deadline: Feb 8th Apply Now

SEOE Undergraduate Awards!!

Award Your Work!!

Nominate Yourself!!

Environmental Science and Studies Awards!!

Geological Sciences Awards!!

Marine Science Awards!!

Deadline: Feb 8th Apply Now

Scan the code or click [here](#) to apply

"After 5" Career Series is BACK!!

Dr Joe is hosting an Alumni Career Series!! Come hear from recent SEOE Alumni about what they are doing now and how they got there!

2/12 **Neve Steger** (MSCI 2023, USC ECIV Master's student) (in person)
2/19 **Tyler Eye** (MSCI 2021, Fisheries Biologist, USM)
2/26 **Maddison Elliott** (ENVR 2020, Ohio State PhD student)
Mondays 5pm in EWS 210

MSCI 313 (Bourbonnais, Venkatachari, Perin, and Thompson) took students to the Baruch Marine Field Lab to collect water samples. Over the semester, the students will be measuring and comparing chemical parameters across multiple sites and presenting their results in April.

The **Estuarine Ecology Lab** with help from undergrads **Emily Kohout**, **Kenyin McBee**, **Daniel Logging**, **Jack Mahoney** and **Jacob Pinckney** were out collecting sediment cores to sample for their collaborative research project focusing on the Benthic Microalgal Subsidy in Estuarine Ecosystems. The primary objective is the measurement of estuarine intertidal BMA NPP, biomass, community composition, and relevant environmental variables (nutrients, grain size, porosity, etc.) along fixed transects that span the intertidal elevational gradient from mean low water to mean high water and incorporate these results in a GIS DEM to calculate ecosystem-level BMA NPP.

Graduate Office

Qualifying/Comprehensive Exams:

Congrats to **La'Nya Green** (Fuente) on a successful MEERM qualifying exam. *Applied Projects in Water Equity in South Carolina. Great job Nya!!*

Marine Science PhD students **Amadi Afua Sefah-Twerefour** and **Abby Kreuser** deployed a slocum glider on the Georgia Coast to listen for right whales in the calving ground. Data are processed in real-time and available for viewing on <http://robots4whales.whoi.edu/> and <https://whalemap.org/>.

Congratulations to **Marine Science PhD student Archana Ventakatachari** (Bourbonnais) and Biological Sciences MS student **Cat Schlenker** (Pinckney) for receiving Student Scholarships at the Society of Lake Management Professionals (SLMP) conference in Tuscon, AZ last week. They both received a cash award of \$2,000. *Congrats on all your hard work!!*

On-site Graduate Student Recruitment event!!
The SEOE will be hosting prospective graduate students on February 12-13th (Mon-Tues). Check your inbox for details. Come meet and greet at **Hunter Gatherer** (downtown) on **Monday Feb 12th at 5pm** for some food and libations. Send your RSVP to Noel now!!

Around the Department News

Virtual Field Experiences

Interested in a virtual field experience? Look no further... The Baruch Marine Field Lab in partners with Sapelo Island Marine Lab and University of Wisconsin-Madison developed a series of learning modules to support coastal and estuarine science education. The modules include informative text, photos, videos, data sheets, real datasets, and data exercises all wrapped together with ArcGIS Storymaps. Module topics include Barrier Island Dynamics, Estuarine Primary Productivity, Nekton Ecology in Estuaries, Oyster Ecology, and Anthropogenic Impacts on Estuaries. Visit the project YouTube channel [Discoveries in the Virtual Field](#) to find informative and instructional videos the help with your lectures.

The **Meyer-Gutbrod lab group** continues to process acoustic data in real-time to inform the management and conservation of the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale. The Norfolk buoy triggered a slow zone on 1/8/24 that will last for 15 days. Here is a link to the NOAA newsletter about this detection.

New visual and acoustic detections, as well as management areas, can be monitored on <https://whalemap.org/>.

KUDOS!!

Awards and Grants:

Monica Barra and **Dean Hardy** have both been named as **McCausland Fellows for 2024!!** This is the College of Arts and Sciences' most prestigious faculty fellowship for early-career faculty. Read more about this award [here](#). *Congratulations Monica and Dean!!*

Congratulations to **Shannon Powers** (Pinckney), who received an **Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award** from the National Association of Geoscience Teachers for her work with MSCI 311: Biology of Marine Organisms (nominated by Erin Meyer-Gutbrod). Shannon (far right) is shepherding her students along a salt marsh trail at BMFL with their quadrats. *Congratulations Shannon, we're so lucky to have you in the SEOE!!*

Annie Bourbonnais (PI) and **Nick Peng** (co-PI) were just awarded another **NSF grant - \$550,590** total. This project will investigate nitrous oxide cycling in coastal sediments of the northern Benguela Upwelling system. *Well Done Annie and Nick!!*

- Graduate student **Darcy Perin** and Annie will be participating in a research cruise aboard the RV Marcus G. Langseth this April/May from and to Walvis Bay, Namibia.

Claudia Benitez-Nelson has been selected as a **Fellow of The Oceanography Society** for her outstanding contributions to understanding marine biogeochemical cycling and exhibited exceptional commitment to mentoring and increasing diversity in ocean sciences.

- Claudia will be recognized during the TOS Honors Breakfast on Wednesday, Feb. 21, at the Ocean Sciences Meeting in New Orleans.
- Everybody... For she's a jolly good fellow, for she's a jolly good fellow... which nobody can deny!! Hooray!!!*

Publications:

- Erin Meyer-Gutbrod** has a new paper out along with her co-authors on The Role of Professional Societies in Advancing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, and Accessibility in the Fields of Coastal and Ocean Science. <https://doi.org/10.5670/oceanog.2024.135>

Dirr, K., and E. Meyer-Gutbrod. 2024. Using podcasts to bring national estuarine research reserves into the classroom. *Oceanography*. <https://doi.org/10.5670/oceanog.2024.202>.

Kaitlyn Dirr, who majored in biological sciences and minored in marine science, just published her honors college thesis work. She did a creative thesis, which involved surveying SC teachers to determine how podcasts could be used in a classroom. Then she interviewed staff at 8 National Estuarine Research Reserve sites in the southeast US. She turned these interviews into an educational podcast series, complete with worksheets and teacher resources. This article in *Oceanography* documents this process, and the podcast and associated materials are all available on <https://nerrorfar.weebly.com/>.

In the News:

- Erin Meyer-Gutbrod** was featured in a few articles recently:
 - The **Choo Down**. **DATA REVEALS MORE VESSELS ARE STRIKING AND KILLING WHALES THAN EVER BEFORE — HERE'S WHAT'S BEHIND IT**
 - The Post and Courier. **Newborn right whale swimming in SC 'likely to die' from recent boat strike**
- Claudia Benitez-Nelson** was in the news recently. Claudia has joined the Department of Energy team to combat climate change. A recent \$4.8M grant from the Department of Energy is part of a national initiative to explore options for the long-term storage of greenhouse gases in the ocean to lessen climate changes and support the development of the marine carbon dioxide removal industry. Read more about it [here](#).

Let the department know about the wonderful things you and the people around you are doing!! Is there something/someone you are proud of? Let us know [Kudos Form](#).

Upcoming Events:

[click to see the google calendar](#)

Feb 14th - SEOE Appreciation Day!!
Feb 26th - Em Hoffman MS Thesis Defense @1pm
Feb 29th - LEAP DAY!! and Midpoint in Semester

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