

Zachary Russell, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist
Horst Schulze School of Hospitality Management
College of Human Sciences, Auburn University
324M Rane Culinary Center
205 S College St. Auburn, AL 36830

Zrussell@auburn.edu | Office: (334) 844-4675 | Cell: (334) 752-1659

EDUCATION

- University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign** **2026**
Doctor of Philosophy: Recreation, Sport and Tourism Champaign, IL
Dissertation: Understanding the Effect of Dark Sky Tourism Participation on Visitors Post-Trip Behavior
Advisor: Dr. Joelle Soulard
- University of Georgia** **2022**
Master of Science: Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management Athens, GA
Thesis: Understanding Motivations Behind Posting Travel Photos
Advisor: Dr. B. Bynum Boley
- North Carolina State University** **2019**
Bachelor of Science: Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management Raleigh, NC

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

2026 – Present Assistant Professor & Extension Specialist
Horst Schulze School of Hospitality Management
Auburn University, Auburn, AL

PUBLICATIONS

- Pitas, N. & **Russell, Z.A.** (2026) Toady ex-machina: AI-engaged leisure as a pathway to moral disengagement. *Leisure Sciences*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01490400.2026.2711811>
- Boley, B., Rahman, S., & **Russell, Z.A.** (2026) Perceived Social Return and Visit Intentions: The Moderating Role of Generational Cohorts. *Current Issues in Tourism*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13683500.2026.2669626>
- Soulard, J., **Russell, Z.A.**, & Szany, K. (2026) Transformation through moral injury: Visitor encounters with difficult heritage. *Annals of Tourism Research* 118, 104146.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.annals.2026.104146>
- Russell, Z.A.**, Beeco, A., Miller, Z., Wilkins, E., Miller, A., Lamborn, C., & Smith, J. (2026) Communicating darkness: Visitor preferences for dark sky interpretation. *Journal of Interpretation Research* 31(1), 27 - 47. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10925872261417304>
- Russell, Z.A.** & Pitas, N. (2026) A multigroup comparison of walk characteristics, place attachment, and awe experiences among participants in a campus-based mental health

- intervention. *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration* 44(1), 43-51.
<https://doi.org/10.18666/JPRA-2025-13133>
- Xie, X., Zhang, H., Liu, H., Payne, L., An, J., & **Russell, Z.A.** (2026) Adolescent deviant leisure: Scale development and validation. *Journal of Leisure Research*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00222216.2026.2641421>
- Boley, B.B., **Russell, Z.A.**, Kock, F., & Kuhn, F. (2025) Prestige, social return and intent to travel: Making sense of how consumers use the personal prestige conveyed by travel to signal status. *Journal of Travel and Tourism Marketing* 42(6), 896-910.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10548408.2025.2523777>
- Soulard, J. & **Russell, Z.A.** (2025) Cognitive vaccines: Self-reflections on dissonant narratives after heritage tourism experiences. *Annals of Tourism Research* 112, 103935
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.annals.2025.103935>
- Pitas, N., **Russell, Z.A.**, Mullenbach, L. & Rose, J. (2025) Attitudes towards unhoused park users and preferences for public space management: Applying the potential for conflict index2 approach. *Society of Natural Resources* 38(3), 235-251.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/08941920.2024.2440912>
- Pitas, N., Rose, J., Mullenbach L., & **Russell, Z.A.** (2024) Unhoused users in parks and public greenspaces: An intergroup conflict approach. *Landscape and Urban Planning* 249, 105113. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landurbplan.2024.105113>
- Russell, Z.A.** & Boley, B.B. (2024) What would you sacrifice for the ‘gram? Developing and testing the Social Media Sacrifice Scale (SMSS). *Journal of Travel and Tourism Marketing* 41(5), 689-704. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10548408.2024.2332274>
- Woosnam, K.M., Erul, E., **Russell, Z.A.**, Rahman, S., Perren, C., Lefavi, M., & Bennett, C. (2023) Social distance with tourists in U.S. counties with the highest historical numbers of reported COVID-19 cases. *Sustainability* 15(11), 8944.
<https://doi.org/10.3390/su15118944>
- Russell, Z.A.**, Boley, B.B., Woosnam, K.M., & Campbell, W.K. (2022) Motivations behind posting travel pictures for status: Developing and validating the Conspicuous Consumption Posting Scale (CCPS) *Journal of Travel and Tourism Marketing* 39(6), 555-569. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10548408.2022.2162658>
- Boley, B.B., **Russell, Z.A.**, & Woosnam, K.M. (2022) Functional and self-congruity’s influence on lodging choice: A comparison of franchise and independent accommodations. *Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Management* 50, 318-326.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhtm.2022.02.020>
- Woosnam, K.M., **Russell, Z.A.**, Riberio, M.A., Denley, T.J., Rojas, C., Hadjidakis, E., Barr, J., & Mower, J. (2021) Residents’ pro-tourism behaviour in a time of COVID-19. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism* 30(8), 1858-1877. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09669582.2021.1985128>
- Jacobs, L., Blacketer, M., Peterson, B., Levithan, E., **Russell, Z.A.**, & Brunson, M. (2020) Responding to COVID-19 and future times of uncertainty: Challenges and opportunities associated with visitor use, management and research in parks and protected areas. *Park*

PUBLICATIONS UNDER REVIEW

- Pitas, N., Payne, L., Liechty, J., Sarker, Z., & **Russell, Z.A.** (In Review) Self-guided weekly awe walks improved psychological wellbeing among college students: Results from a randomized control trial pilot study. *Journal of American College Health* – Awaiting initial reviewer scores.
- Soulard, J., **Russell, Z.A.**, Milazzo, L., Frankenberg, S., Turner, H., Szany, K. (In Preparation) Influence of popular culture on visitors experience at Holocaust museums. Target Journal: *Tourism Geographies* – Awaiting initial reviewer scores
- Russell, Z.A.**, Beeco, A., Crump, M., Newton, J., Buckley, S., Barber, J., Newman, P, Taff, D. (In Preparation) Understanding the influence of awe on visitors' support for management actions protecting natural nighttime environments. Target Journal: *Tourism Geographies* – Awaiting initial reviewer scores.

BOOK REVIEWS

- Russell, Z.** (2024) *The Tourism Area Life Cycle: Review, Relevance and Revision*, R. Butler (Ed.), Channel View Publications, Bristol (2024). (Hbk.), £119.95 ISBN: 9781845419134. (Pbk.), £39.95 ISBN: 9781845419127. (Ebk.), £30.00 ISBN: 9781845419158. *Tourism Management* 107.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tourman.2024.105076>

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- Russell, Z.A.** (2025). *Panel Moderator, Unpacking tourism research: What you need to know (that no one teaches you)*. Invited presentation at the International Travel and Tourism Research Association (TTRA) Conference; June 2026, Greenville, SC.
- Russell, Z.A.**, Beeco, A., Crump, M., Newton, J., Buckley, S., Barber, J., Newman, P, Taff, D. (2026) *Understanding the influence of awe on visitors' support for protecting natural nighttime environments*. Invited oral presentation given to Natural Sounds and Night Skies Division of the National Park Service
- Russell, Z.A.** (2025). *Panelist, Great Debates session*. Invited presentation at the International Travel and Tourism Research Association (TTRA) Conference; June 2025, Galway, Ireland.

PRESENTATIONS (Mentorship of undergraduate student indicated by *; Awards indicated by †)

- Russell Z.A.** & Soulard J. (2026) Engaging visitors in light pollution mitigation: Early insights from dark sky tourism. Oral presentation at the Qualitative Methods Research Workshop at TTRA International Conference; June 2026; Greenville, SC.

- Russell, Z.A.**, Beeco, A., Crump, M., Newton, J., Buckley, S., Barber, J., Newman, P., Taff, D. (2026) Understanding the influence of awe on visitors' support for protecting natural nighttime environments. Oral presentation at NERR Symposium; April 2026; Virginia Beach, VA.
- Russell Z.A.** & Pitas, N. (2026) Dark skies in decline: Integrating dark sky tourism with last chance tourism. Oral presentation at TALS Conference; February 2026; Philadelphia, PA.
- Tewari, K., **Russell, Z.A.**, Cho, S.J., Zheng, W. (2026) Third places and graduate student well-being. Oral presentation at TALS Conference; February, 2026; Philadelphia, PA.
- Soulard, J., **Russell, Z.A.**, Frankenberg, S. (2026) Negotiating popular culture in Holocaust museums: Mediated memory and transformative learning. Oral presentation at TALS Conference; February 2026; Philadelphia, PA.
- Soulard, J. & **Russell, Z.A.** (2025) Unpacking visitor reflections in Holocaust museums: Preliminary findings about transitional justice. Oral presentation at the Qualitative Methods Research Workshop at TTRA International Conference; June 2025; Galway, Ireland.
- Russell Z.A.** & Pitas, N. (2025) Self-guided walk characteristics influence on awe and place attachment: A multi-group path model. Oral presentation at NERR Symposium; April 2025; Virginia Beach, VA.
- Russell Z.A.**, Soulard, J., van Riper, C., & Zou, S. (2025) Effects of message framing on light pollution. Poster presentation at NERR Symposium; April 2025; Virginia Beach, VA.
- Pitas, N., Payne, L., Liechty, J., Sarker, Z. & **Russell, Z.A.** (2025) Assessing the impact of a self-guided awe walking intervention on college student psychological wellbeing Oral presentation at TALS Conference; March 2025; Pittsburgh, PA.
- Soulard, J. & **Russell, Z.A.** (2024) Early findings on media literacy through dark tourism experiences. Oral presentation at the Qualitative Methods Research Workshop at TTRA International Conference; June 2024; Burlington VT.
- *Foster, K., **Russell, Z.A.** & Soulard, J. (2024) Understanding visitor perceptions of advocacy and credibility in dark tourism museums. Poster Presentation at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign Undergraduate Research Symposium; April 2024; Champaign, IL.
- Russell, Z.A.**, Schaumleffel, N., Perera, P. & Payne, L. (2024) Resident attitudes towards rural tourism: Does age matter? Oral presentation at the National Environment and Recreation Research Symposium; April 2024; Annapolis, MD.
- Seekamp, E., Savage, A., Knollenberg, W., Cutts B. & **Russell, Z.A.** (2024) Co-designing a community-driven information hub for recovery and resiliency. Oral presentation at Social Coast Forum; February 2024; Charleston, SC.
- Pitas, N., Mullenbach, L., Rose, J., Hoyle-Katz, A. & **Russell, Z.A.** (2024) Homelessness in parks and public greenspaces: Applying an intergroup conflict framework. Oral presentation at TALS Conference; January 2024; New Orleans, LA.

- [†]**Russell, Z.A.** & Soulard, J. (2023) Understanding the effect of astrotourism participation on visitors post-trip behavior. Poster at the Ideas Fair session at TTRA International Conference; June 2023; St. Louis, MO.
- Russell, Z.A.**, Savage, A., Knollenberg, W., Seekamp, E. & Cutts, B. (2023) Identifying attributes for a virtual community-based disaster preparedness hub: Examples from two coastal communities. Oral presentation at the Qualitative Methods Research Workshop at TTRA International Conference; June 2023; St Louis, MO.
- Russell, Z.A.**, Cavanaugh, D., Fransen, M., Payne, L., Pitas, N., Garcia, A. & Dudek, N. (2023) Not Quite Suburban or Rural: Challenges and lessons learned in an inter-governmental collaboration for community parks and recreation planning. Poster presentation at National Environment and Recreation Research Symposium, Annapolis, MD, April 2023.
- Savage, A., Knollenberg, W., Seekamp, E., Cutts, B. & **Russell, Z.A.** (2022) Critical elements of a community-driven disaster recovery and resilience information hub. Oral Presentation at the North Carolina Coastal Conference, Raleigh, NC, November 2022.
- Russell, Z.A.** & Boley, B.B. (2022) Understanding the Conspicuous Consumption Posting Scale (CCPS): An application of the big 5 personality traits. Oral presentation at the CenStates/Greater Western TTRA joint Conference, Skokie, Illinois, October 2022.
- Savage, A., **Russell, Z.A.**, Knollenberg, W., Seekamp, E., & Cutts, B. (2022). Utilizing ORID method for community-based workshops as a strategy to create a disaster preparedness virtual resource hub. Oral presentation at the National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals Annual Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana, June 2022.
- Russell, Z.A.** & Boley, B.B. (2021) What would you give? Developing and testing the travel photo sacrifice scale (TPSS), Oral presentation at Southeast Recreation Research Symposium (SERR) Conference March 2022; Asheville, NC.
- Russell, Z.A.**, Boley B.B., Woosnam, K.M., & Campbell, W.K. (2021) Bandwagoners or snobs? Developing the conspicuous consumption posting scale (CCPS), Oral presentation at Southeast Recreation Research Symposium (SERR) Conference March 2022, Asheville, NC.
- Boley, B.B., **Russell, Z.A.**, & Woosnam, K.M. (2021) Functional and self-congruity's influence on lodging choice: A comparison of franchise and independent accommodations, Oral presentation at 14th Consumer Behaviour in Tourism Symposium, December 2021; (Virtual).
- Russell, Z.A.** & Boley, B.B. (2021) What people will sacrifice for the 'gram: Developing and applying the travel photo sacrifice scale (TPSS), Oral presentation at 14th Consumer Behavior in Tourism Symposium December 2021; (Virtual).
- [†]**Russell, Z.A.**, Boley B.B., Woosnam, K.M., & Campbell, W.K. (2021) Bandwagoners or snobs, Developing the conspicuous consumption posting scale, Oral presentation at Southeast Travel and Tourism Research Association (SETTRA) Conference September 2021, Spartanburg, SC.

- Russell, Z.A.,** Boley, B.B., Woosnam, K.M., & Campbell, W.K. (2021) Bandwagoners or snobs, Developing the conspicuous consumption motivation scale. 3MT presentation at 51st Travel and Tourism Research Association (TTRA) International Conference June 2021; Ft. Worth, TX (Virtual).
- Russell, Z.A.,** Boley, B.B., Woosnam, K.M., & Campbell, W.K. (2021) Measuring bandwagon and snob motivations of conspicuous consumption. Oral presentation at 43rd Southeast Recreation Research (SERR) March 2021; Asheville, NC (Virtual).
- Russell, Z.A. & Boley B.B.** (2020) Self-concept's influence on lodging choice. Poster at the 42nd Southeast Recreation Research (SERR) Conference March 2020; Asheville, NC. (Virtual).

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS

- 2024 – *Indoor Recreation Space Needs Assessment: Final Report.* Prepared for Naperville Park District (NPD) in collaboration with Williams Architects and Pros Consulting.
- 2024 – *City Park Pool Preference Survey: Final Report.* Prepared for Iowa City Parks and Recreation Department in collaboration with Williams Architects and BerryDunn Consulting.
- 2023 – Savage, A., Knollenberg, W., Seekamp, E., Cutts, B., **Russell, Z.** *Blueprint for a virtual community-based disaster preparedness hub.* Report prepared for North Carolina Sea Grant.
- 2023 – *Jackson County Outdoor Recreation & Ecotourism Survey: Final Report.* Prepared for Jackson County Natural Resources and Economic Development Board in collaboration with Driven Strategic Consulting.
- 2023 – *Midlothian Park District Community Survey: Final Report.* Prepared for Midlothian Park District in collaboration with Hitchcock Design Group.
- 2023 – *Lincolnwood Parks and Recreation Community Survey: Final Report.* Prepared for Lincolnwood Parks and Recreation Department in collaboration with Hitchcock Design Group.
- 2023 – *Bloomington Park District: Final Report. Community Survey.* Prepared for Bloomington Park District
- 2023 – *Crete Community Survey: Final Report.* Prepared for the Crete Park District, Crete Township, Crete Public Library District, and Village of Crete.
- 2022 – *Des Plaines Park District Community Survey: Final Report.* Prepared for Des Plaines Park District.

MEDIA

- UGA Today (August 5, 2026). Could social media change your travel plans?
<https://news.uga.edu/could-social-media-change-your-travel-plans/>

FUNDING

PIs: Russell, Z., Soulard, J.; Co-PI: van Riper, C. (2025) Messaging influence on park visitor experiences and behavior: A study of dark sky tourism in Grand Teton National Park. UW-NPS (\$5,000; Unfunded)

PIs: Soulard, J., Russell, Z.; Co-PI Stewart, W., (2024) Exploring the Shadows: A Grant Proposal to Understand the Impact of Dark Tourism on Self-Reflection and Disinformation Discernment. University of Illinois RST Summer Mini Grant (\$5,500; Awarded).

PIs: Russell, Z., Soulard, J.; Co-PI: Pitas, N. (2024) Understanding the importance of dark skies in visitors' recreation experiences at Grand Teton National Park. UW-NPS (\$5,000; Unfunded).

TEACHING

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

RST 350 – Tourism and Culture **Spring 2026**

Instructor

RST 317 – Designing Parks and Recreation Experiences **Fall 2025**

Instructor

RST 350 – Tourism and Culture **Spring 2025**

Co-Instructor

RST 199 – Outdoor Recreation Consortium **Spring 2025**

Teaching Assistant

RST 450 – Tourism Planning and Development **Fall 2024**

Co-Instructor

University of Georgia

PRTM 1000 - Introduction to Travel and Tourism **Fall 2021**

Teaching Assistant

INVITED GUEST LECTURES

Russell, Z.A. (April, 2025) *Impacts of Tourism and Outdoor Recreation on Natural Environments*. University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism, RST 429, Contemporary Issues in RST.

Russell, Z.A. (November, 2024) *Impacts of Tourism and Outdoor Recreation on Natural Environments*. University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism, RST 429, Contemporary Issues in RST.

Russell, Z.A. (April, 2024) *The Relationship Between Social Media and Tourism*. Penn State University – Abington, Department of Recreation, Parks and Tourism Management,

RPTM 120, Leisure and Human Behavior.

Russell, Z.A. (October, 2023). *Crisis Management and Tourism Planning*, University of Illinois, Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism, RST 450, Tourism Planning & Development.

Russell, Z.A. (October, 2023). *Cultural Heritage Tourism*, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism, RST 150, Foundations of Tourism.

TEACHING CERTIFICATES

Certificate in Foundations of Teaching

May 2024

Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning, University of Illinois

SERVICE

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- Ad hoc reviewer – Journal of Sustainable Tourism; Tourism Geographies; Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Management; Journal of Ecotourism; Journal of Hospitality & Tourism Research; Tourism and Hospitality Research, Journal of Park and Recreation Administration; Tourism Review International.
- Emerging Leaders Subcommittee - Travel and Tourism Research Association – 2026 - 2027.
- Southeast Travel and Tourism Research Association Chapter Board Member – 2026 - 2027.
- Travel and Tourism Research Association Student Volunteer Director – 2023 – 2026.
- National Environment and Recreation Research Session Moderator – 2024.
- Illinois Recreation and Park Association – Session Volunteer – 2023.

SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT/COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

- University of Illinois Urbana Champaign Undergraduate Research Symposium Session Judge – 2024 – 2026.
- Warnell Graduate Student Symposium Session Moderator – 2020.
- University of Georgia Graduate Student Council – College Representative 2020 – 2021.
- University of Georgia Graduate Student Association Student Advocacy Committee Member 2020-2021.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Office of Recreation and Park Resources (ORPR) at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign

Indoor Recreation Space Needs Assessment: Naperville, Illinois 2024

In collaboration with Williams Architects and Pros Consulting, ORPR evaluated resident interest in various indoor recreation center amenities. ORPR's role was to conduct community focus groups and a statistically valid survey. My responsibilities included developing a focus group guide, directing focus groups comprised of Naperville residents, development of survey instruments, three separate data collections, data cleaning, analysis of quantitative data, data visualization, and report writing.

City Park Pool Preferences: Iowa City, Iowa 2024

In collaboration with Williams Architects and BerryDunn consulting, ORPR evaluated resident preferences for pool designs for the planned renovation of City Park Pool. My responsibilities included being a secondary point of contact for Williams Architects and Iowa City Parks and Recreation, development of the survey instrument, the collection of data, ensuring data fidelity through cross referencing between selected addresses and surveys returned, data processing, analysis and visualization of quantitative data, and drafting of the final report.

Jackson County Outdoor Recreation and Ecotourism Survey: Carbondale, Illinois 2023-2024

In collaboration with Driven Strategic consulting, ORPR gathered input from residents in Jackson County Illinois to determine support for the development of an outdoor recreation tourism product in the county. Residents were also asked to evaluate their satisfaction with the management of outdoor recreation resources and interest in capital projects aimed at improving quality of life. My responsibilities in this project were to act as a secondary point of contact for the Jackson County Natural Resource and Economic Development Board (NRED), conducting stakeholder interviews with local politicians and leaders, conducting resident focus groups, development of survey instrument, supervision of data collection, data processing, analysis of qualitative and quantitative data, data visualization and report writing. Additionally, I was the lead presenter on an oral presentation at the 2024 National Environment and Recreation Research Symposium in Annapolis MD.

Community Parks and Recreation Survey: Midlothian, Illinois 2023

In collaboration with Hitchcock Design Group, ORPR evaluated resident satisfaction with parks and recreation services as well as interest in future capital projects for the Midlothian Park District. My responsibilities included survey development, data processing, quantitative data analysis, data visualization and drafting of the final report.

Community Parks and Recreation Survey: Lincolnwood, Illinois 2023

In collaboration with Hitchcock Design Group, ORPR evaluated resident satisfaction with parks and recreation services as well as interest in future capital projects for the Lincolnwood Parks and Recreation Department. My responsibilities included survey development, data processing, quantitative data analysis, data visualization and drafting of the final report.

Community Parks and Recreation Survey: Bloomingdale, Illinois 2023

The Office of Recreation and Park Resources (ORPR) at the University of Illinois worked with Bloomingdale Park District to gather input from residents regarding resident satisfaction with park district amenities and interest in future capital projects. My responsibilities included facilitating interviews and focus groups with the staff and residents of Bloomingdale Park District, development of the survey instrument, data processing, qualitative and quantitative data

analysis, and drafting of the final report.

Crete Interagency Community Survey: Crete Illinois, 2022-2023

The Office of Recreation and Park Resources (ORPR) at the University of Illinois worked with the Crete Library, Crete Township, Crete Park District, and the Village of Crete to gather input from residents served by these four municipal organizations. Data collected focused on resident use of and satisfaction with facilities, programs, services, and events. The secondary goal of this project was to assess residents' needs and preferences regarding parks, recreation, enrichment, and educational programs and services offered by these agencies. My responsibilities included assisting with interviews and focus groups with the various staff of the Crete municipalities, development of the survey instrument, data processing, qualitative and quantitative data analysis, and drafting of the final report. Lastly, I was the lead presenter on a poster presented at the 2023 National Environment and Recreation Research Symposium in Annapolis, Maryland.

Community Parks and Recreation Survey: Des Plaines, Illinois 2022-2023

The Office of Recreation and Park Resources (ORPR) at the University of Illinois worked with Des Plaines Park District to gather input from residents regarding resident satisfaction with park district amenities and interest in future capital projects. My responsibilities included assisting with interviews and focus groups with the various staff of the Crete municipalities, development of the survey instrument, data processing, qualitative and quantitative data analysis, and drafting of the final report.

North Carolina State University

Disaster Preparedness Virtual Resource Hub Development, Ocracoke, NC 2022

Working with NC State Extension, the team met held community-based workshops in the Outer Banks of North Carolina to examine resident preferences for the development of a disaster preparedness virtual resource hub. This project was funded through an NSF Rapid Grant. My responsibilities included workshop organization, participant recruitment, data cleaning and transcription, and initial analyses. I also served as the lead presenter during the 2023 Qualitative Methods workshop at the International Travel and Tourism Research Association Conference in St. Louis, MO.

AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

- 2025 – 2026 Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism Allen V. Sapora Research Award
- Spring 2025 - List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students for RST 350 Tourism and Culture
- Fall 2024 - List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students for RST 450 Tourism Planning and Development, Special Mention: Instructor Ratings Were Outstanding
- 2024 – 2025 Recreation, Sport and Tourism Departmental Student Travel Award
- 2023 – 2024 Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism Charles K. Brightbill Memorial Scholarship winner
- 2023 – 2024 University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Graduate Student Conference Presentation Award Grant

- 2023 – 2024 Recreation, Sport and Tourism Departmental Student Travel Award
- 2023 - Best Illustrated Paper at the Travel and Tourism Research Association International Conference
 - Awarded for poster presentation titled ‘Understanding the effect of astrotourism participation on visitors post-trip behavior’
- 2022 – 2023 Recreation, Sport and Tourism Departmental Student Travel Award
- 2022 – 2023 University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Graduate Student Conference Presentation Award Grant - Fall 2022
- 2022 - University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Department of Recreation Sport and Tourism Doctoral Fellowship
- 2021 - University of Georgia Travel Fund Award
- 2021 - Top 10 student paper at Southeast Travel and Tourism Research Symposium
- North Carolina State University Deans List: Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Natural Sounds and Night Skies Division <i>Night Skies Assistant Intern</i>	June 2025 – October 2025
Driven Strategic <i>Contract Data Analyst</i>	December 2022 – February 2024
North Carolina State University <i>Temporary Research Assistant</i>	January 2022 – December 2022
Georgia Department of Natural Resources <i>Manager in Training</i>	October 2019 – December 2019
Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources <i>Park Assistant</i>	March 2019 – October 2019
North Carolina State University <i>Undergraduate Research Assistant</i>	March 2018 – October 2018
Charleston County Parks and Recreation Commission <i>Operations Intern</i>	May 2018 – August 2018