

Kaitlyn E. Horisk
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Interests

I am a broadly trained scientist and educator with experience in both formal and informal education settings. I am interested in career opportunities in museum outreach and programming.

Education

The Pennsylvania State University (Penn State), PhD, Geosciences, Expected 2024

“Plants, Precipitation, and People: A paleoecological approach to complex dryland ecosystem dynamics”

State University of New York at Binghamton, BA Anthropological Perspectives and BS Geological Sciences, magna cum laude, 2019

Interpretation and Instruction

- 2021-Present – Graduate Student Representative, EMS Museum & Art Gallery Advisory Board, Penn State
- 2022-2023 – Project Manager, Cretaceous Oceans and Climate Exhibit, Earth and Mineral Sciences (EMS) Museum & Art Gallery, Penn State: Development and installation of an exhibit and conducted an evaluation of that exhibit, which involved developing undergraduate coursework centered on museum collections and exhibits
- 2020, 2022 (Fall) – Teaching Assistant, Geobiology (GEOSC 204), Department of Geosciences, Penn State: Developed two lab assignments in collaboration with the EMS Museum & Art Gallery, taught lab classes through in-person instruction, delivered a lecture on “The Sixth Mass Extinction”
- 2022 – Instructor of Record, Geology of the National Parks (GEOSC 010), Penn State Department of Geosciences
- 2022 – Professional Development, Evaluating Interpretive Exhibits, Museum Study: Short course on museum exhibit evaluation techniques
- 2022 – Volunteer, Wildlife Ambassador and Educator, Shaver’s Creek Environmental Center, Penn State: Animal husbandry and public engagement with animal ambassadors
- 2021 – “Current Science” Presenter, Cleveland Museum of Natural History
- 2020 – Content Creator, STEM Thursdays, Eberly College of Science, Penn State: Created a short video describing my research for a virtual science summer camp for middle school students

Mentorship

- 2020-Present – Mentor-Mentee Program Mentor, Association for Women Geoscientists, Penn State Chapter
- 2022 – Senior Thesis Co-supervisor, Student project: Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons extraction and analysis
- 2021 – Senior Thesis Co-supervisor, Student project: Assessing the representativity of local vegetation in rock hyrax middens
- 2019-2021 – Mentor-Mentee Program Executive, Association for Women Geoscientists, Penn State University Chapter

Research

- 2019-Present – Team Member, Ancient Socio-ecological Systems in Oman (ASOM) Project, Penn State Paleoecological team in collaboration with the Ohio State University archaeological team and the Oman Ministry of Heritage and Tourism
- 2021 – Data Steward, African Pollen Database and Neotoma Paleoecology Database: Participated in large initiative to reformat and upload African Pollen Database datasets to Neotoma Paleoecology Database
- 2020 – Paleoecological Fieldwork: Hyrax midden survey and collection and estuary coring in Dhofar, Oman (ASOM Project)
- 2018 – Geological Field School: 4 weeks of geologic mapping, State University of New York at Buffalo
- 2016-2019 – Castro Colonies Archaeology Lab Assistant, Department of Anthropology, State University of New York at Binghamton

Grants

2021	Honorable Mention NSF Graduate Research Fellowship
2020	Elsevier Organic Geochemistry Research Scholarship
2020	Cleveland Museum of Natural History John H. Hoskins Grant-in-Aid Program

Awards

2023	Teaching Assistant Award, Penn State, EMS Department of Geosciences
2022	Krynine Award, Penn State, EMS Department of Geosciences
2022	Richard Standish Good Graduate Scholarship, Penn State, EMS Department of Geosciences
2022	Richard R. Parizek Graduate Fellowship, Penn State, EMS Department of Geosciences
2021	Marilyn L. Fogel Student Research Fund in Biogeosciences, Penn State, Earth and Environmental Systems Institute
2020	RJ Cuffey Fund for Paleontology, Penn State, EMS Department of Geosciences
2020	Michael Loudin Family Graduate Scholarship, Penn State, EMS Department of Geosciences

Invited Talks

“Paleoecological insights into drivers of landscape change in Dhofar, Oman” International Geomorphology Week Regional Webinar for North America. International Association of Geomorphologists. March 1, 2022.

“Making an Exhibition: Collaborative Curation of *From the Earth: The Making and Meaning of Maya Tomb Objects*.” Curatorial gallery talk. Binghamton University Art Museum, Binghamton, NY. April 10, 2019.

Publications

Horisk, K., Ivory, S., McCorriston, J., McHale, M., Al Mehri, A., Anderson, A., Al Mehri, A., Anderson, R., Al Kathiri, A. (2023). Vegetation dynamics in Dhofar, Oman, from the Late Holocene to present inferred from rock hyrax middens. *Quaternary Research*, 1-18. doi:10.1017/qua.2023.42