

Victoria K. Makowski

(716)550-1110 || email: vmakowski@outlook.com

EDUCATION

Johns Hopkins University (Online)

R Programming Certification

Baltimore, MD

2025 – Present

University of California, Davis (Online)

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Specialization

Davis, CA

2025 – Present

Augusta University

B.S. in Ecology; *Magna Cum Laude*; *Distinction of Excellence in Research*
2025

Augusta, GA

August 2020 – May

- **GPA:** 3.71 Institutional / 3.72 Overall
- **Related Coursework:** Statistics, Physics I & II, General Chemistry I & II, Organic Chemistry I, Botany, Ecology, Economic Botany, Genetics, Community Field Ecology, Evolutionary Biology, Marine Pollution, Ornithology, Zoology

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Augusta University Department of Biological Sciences

Augusta, GA

One fish, two fish, *more* fish? Are channel closures positively impacting Satilla River fish assemblages?

– Dr. L. Mathews, Dr. J. Reichmuth

February 2025 – Present

- Compiled fish assemblage data for 6+ years to analyze with Shannon Diversity & cross-reference with salinity, turbidity, & temperature of water before & after cut closures on the Satilla River.
- *Will present data at Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation (CERF)'s 2025 Biennial Meeting.*

Monitoring Local, State, & Federal Restoration Efforts of an Obsolete Navigational Channel

– Dr. C. Bates, Dr. S. Bennetts, Dr. J. Hauger, Dr. L. Mathews, & Dr. J. Reichmuth

February 2025 – Present

- Collaborative project with Augusta University (AU), Georgia Southern University (GSU), & Francis Marion University (FMU) to assess the ecological impacts of cut closures on the Satilla River.
- Top-down forces (fish/mobile invertebrate diversity, crustacean population structure, & food web analysis) were monitored using experimental gill nets deployed by boat & counting crab burrows.
- Bottom-up parameters (water chemistry, light availability, phytoplankton abundance, & diversity of salt marsh plants & sediment microbes) were monitored using sonde readings, marsh transects, & soil analyses.

Fish Slam – Dr. R. Singer

December 2024

- Worked with USGS, Florida DNR, & Florida FWC collecting non-native species around Southern Florida.
- Freshwater & brackish systems were sampled for non-native fishes using electrofishing boats, hook & line, minnow traps, dip nets, & cast nets.

Chloroplasts From the Past: Digitizing AU's Herbarium – Dr. S. Bennetts

Oct. 2024 – August 2025

- 1000+ individual herbarium specimens were organized & cataloged into a digital platform to be uploaded to a widely accessible online database, *Symbiota*.
- *Presented at AU's 2025 Center for Undergraduate Research (CURs) Symposium & Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) 2025 Annual Meeting.*

Specs of Speckled Crabs: Observations of why speckled crabs may not be good lab specimens – Dr. J. Reichmuth

March 2024 – March 2025

- Speckled crabs were collected by hand or using bag & monofilament seine nets of various lengths.
- Sex, coloration, & carapace width were measured upon entering the lab & compared to after-molt data.
- *Presented data at the Spring 2025 Southeastern Estuarine Research Society (SEERS) conference.*

Comparing microplastic tolerance & behaviors of male sand fiddler crabs, *Uca pugilator*, from Hunting Island & Tybee Island – Dr. J. Reichmuth

Summer 2023 – Winter 2023

- Analyzed fiddler crab tolerance & behavior changes after prolonged exposure to dietary microplastics between different anthropogenically influenced locations.
- Became proficient at collecting fiddler crabs by hand & recognizing genera on the SC & GA salt marshes.
- *Presented at the Spring 2024 SEERS conference.*

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Oceanic fish diversity among barrier islands along the Georgia coast – *Dr. J. Reichmuth* May 2023 – Present

- Utilized bag & monofilament beach seines, minnow traps & crab pots in fresh & brackish water, gill nets in leeward & seaward tidal creeks, & cast nets in marsh ponds.
- Identified fish to species using field guides, counted & measured all fish caught.
- Collected, transported, & acclimated live specimens into the AU aquarium.
- Collected, identified, cataloged, & preserved specimens for the AU Fish Collection Museum.

Augusta University Department of Physics & Biophysics

Augusta, GA

DOPTC: Autonomous Water Quality Sensing – *Dr. J. Hauger*

May 2024 – Sept 2025

- Engineered low-cost water sensors for Augusta Utilities' Smart City initiative.
- Worked in a small group creating a sonde measuring DO, ORP, pH, Temperature, & Conductivity.
- Atlas Scientific Probes were calibrated & coded. Housing was created using CAD software & 3D printed.
- Two versions: one stationary to be deployed & left in the environment, one mounted on a kids' kayak with both autonomous & remote-control modes.
- Presented data to the City of Augusta Summer of 2024 & 2025 & at AU's 2025 CURs Symposium.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Augusta University

Augusta, GA

Lead Greenhouse Technician

2024 – 2025

- Maintained & improved the two greenhouses located on the Augusta University campus.

Augusta Utilities Research Intern

2024 – 2025

- Engineered a low-cost water sensor, DOPTC. See above for more details.

Barnes & Noble

Augusta, GA

Bookseller & Receiver; Keyholder Manager

January 2021 – August 2024

- Provided positive customer service, received shipments, unpacked boxes, & kept the store clean & orderly.

Leisurewood INC.

Akron, NY

Youth & Teen Director

May – October 2019

- Organized & executed children's activities, including fundraisers. Dissolved any negative situations.

AFFILIATIONS

- Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation (CERF) 2025 – Present
- Society for the Preservation of Natural History (SPNHC) 2025 – Present
- Southeastern Estuarine Research Society (SEERS) 2023 – Present
- AU Student Advisory Council 2023 – 2025
- AU French Club: *Vice President* (22–24), *President* (24–25) 2022 – 2025
- AU Biology Club: *Vice President* (24-25) 2021 – 2025

HONOR SOCIETIES

- Alpha Mu Gamma Foreign Language Honor Society 2023 – Present
- Beta Beta Beta Science Honor Society 2023 – Present
- NSF's Promoting Opportunities & Pathways for Undergraduate Persistence in STEM (POPUPS) 2022 – 2025
- Phi Eta Sigma Academic Honor Society 2021 – Present

HONORS & AWARDS

- Outstanding Senior in Biology 2025
 - Outstanding Student in French 2024
 - Chairman's Award in French 2023
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TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Field Skills:** Electrofishing, Cameras, Nets (Cast, Dip, Gill, & Seine), Species Identification, Surber Samplers, Traps (Crab, Eel, & Minnow), Water Quality Tests, Greenhouse Systems, UTV Driving
 - **Lab Skills:** Data Processing, Dissection, Micro & Macroscopes, Organism Preservation & Documentation
 - **Computer Skills:** 3D Printing, Arduino Coding, C++ Language Basics, CAD Design, GIS Basics, Python Language Basics, R Coding
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LICENSES & CERTIFICATIONS

- Georgia DNR Resident Fishing License
 - South Carolina DNR Non-Resident Fishing License
 - AU Biology Department Vehicle Certification
 - AU Biology Department Certified Field Assistant/Mentor
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REFERENCES

Dr. Jessica Reichmuth, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Biology

Francis Marion University
Florence, SC

jessica.reichmuth@fmarion.edu

Dr. Joseph Hauger, Ph.D.

Professor, Physics and Biophysics

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Dr. Stacy Bennetts, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Biology

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Dr. Guido Verbeck, Ph.D.

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Biochemistry

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