

Michelle E. Harris
Coastal & Ocean Processes
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EDUCATION

- 2024 Ph.D. Geography
University of South Carolina
Dissertation: “*Integrated Coastal Science and Dune Management: A South Carolina Perspective*”
Advisor and Committee Chair: Jean Taylor Ellis
- 2019 M.S. Geography
University of South Carolina
Thesis: “*Evaluating the Efficacy of Sand Fences on Dunes Impacted by Hurricanes*”
Advisor and Committee Chair: Jean Taylor Ellis
- 2016 B.S. Geography (highest honors)
Minor in Geo-Spatial Science with GIS Certification
Sam Houston State University
Honors Undergraduate Thesis: “*The Lion’s Share: A Spatial Analysis of the Invasive Red Lionfish, *Pterois volitans**”
Thesis Advisor: Mark Leipnik

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2024 – Current Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) | College of William & Mary (WM)
Postdoctoral Research Associate
Coastal & Ocean Processes – Coastal Geology Lab
- 2020 – 2021 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellow
Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2017 – 2024 Wind-sediment Interactions and Nearshore Dynamics Lab (WINDlab)
Research Associate (USC)
- 2019 (Summer) Carolina’s Integrated Science Assessment (CISA)
Research Associate (USC)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of South Carolina (USC)

Instructor of Record

GEOG 105: The Digital Earth (Spring 2022 [F2F], Fall 2022 [F2F], Spring 2023 [F2F], Summer 2023 [online accelerated], Fall 2023 [F2F], Spring 2024 [F2F])

GEOG 104: Introduction to Physical Geography (Spring 2021 [online], Summer 2021 [online accelerated], Fall 2021 [F2F])

Teaching Assistant

GEOG 201: Landform Geography (Fall 2019 [F2F])

GEOG 202: Weather and Climate (Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019 [F2F])

GEOG 495: Seminar in Geography (Fall 2017 [F2F])

GEOG 104: Introduction to Physical Geography (Fall 2017 [F2F])

Sam Houston State University (SHSU)

Teaching Assistant

GEOG 201: Weather and Climate (Summer 2016, Fall 2016 [F2F])

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

Harris, M.E., and Ellis, J.T. (2025). Managed coastal dunes and the role of slope in storm impact and recovery. *Ocean and Coastal Management*, 261. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ocecoaman.2025.107539>

Ellis, J.T., **Harris, M.E.**, and Barrineau, J.B. (2024). Topographic-Vegetation Interactions on an Incipient Foredune Field Post-Tropical Storm. *Geohazards*, 5(4), 1207-219. <https://doi.org/10.3390/geohazards5040057>

Harris, M.E., and Ellis, J.T. (2021). Comparing Tropical Cyclone and King Tide Impacts on a South Carolina Coastal Dune System. *Journal of Coastal Research*, 37(5), 923-932. <https://doi.org/10.2112/JCOASTRES-D-21-00025.1>

Ellis, J.T., **Harris, M.E.**, Román-Rivera, M.A., Ferguson, J.B., Tereszkiewicz, P.A., McGill, S.P. (2020). Application of the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale to Assess Sand Dune Response to Tropical Storms. *Journal of Marine Science and Engineering*, 8(9), 670, <https://doi.org/10.3390/jmse8090670>.

Ellis, J.T., Román-Rivera, M.A., **Harris, M.E.**, and Tereszkiewicz, P.A. (2020). Two years and two hurricanes later: Did the dunes recover? *Shore and Beach*, 88(4), 3-12.

Harris, M.E. and Ellis, J.T. (2020). A holistic approach to evaluating dune cores. *Journal of Coastal Conservation*, 24(4), <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11852-020-00760-w>.

Harris, M.E., Ellis, J.T., and Barrineau, C.P. (2020). Evaluating the Geomorphic Response from Sand Fences on Dunes Impacted by Hurricanes. *Ocean and Coastal Management*, 193. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ocecoaman.2020.105247>.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW AND REVISION

Harris, M.E., and Ellis, J.T. Sand Fences in Coastal Management: A South Carolina Inventory and Impact Assessment. *Submitted to Coastal Management*.

TECHNICAL REPORTS AND MEMOS

Turner, E., Ombres, E., Bennett-Mintz, J., Dortch, Q., Broadwater, M., Berger, H., and **Harris, M.E** (2021). *NOAA Ocean Acidification Program: Harmful Algal Blooms and Ocean Acidification Workshop: Defining a Research Agenda*. U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA Technical Memorandum OAR-OAP-3, 76 p.

Knapp, L., Dow, K., **Harris, M.E.**, Braud, A., Levine, N., and Watson, S (2019). *Flood Vulnerability Assessment: City of Beaufort, SC*. 40 p.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2022 Slocum-Lunz Foundation Grant (\$1,200)
2020 John A. Knauss Marine Policy NOAA Fellowship (\$74,500)

HONORS AND AWARDS

Stipend Awards

2019 – 2024 College of Arts & Sciences Graduate Stipend Enhancement Award (\$16,000)

Departmental Awards

2023 Department of Geography Graduate Instructor Award (USC) (\$100)
2022 Bennett S. Masaschi Graduate Award (USC) (\$500)
2021 Paul E. Lovingood Graduate Research Award (USC) (\$500)
2016 Let's Talk Honors Award (SHSU) (\$100)
2015 – 2016 Robert and Mabel Richardson Endowment Award (SHSU) (\$500)

University Awards

2024 Learn, Discover, Innovate Faculty Grant (WM) (\$2000)
2024 Generative AI Faculty Working Group Award (WM) (\$750)
2023 Dean's Award for Excellence in Leadership (USC) (\$1000)
2023 Graduate Teaching Assistant Teaching Resource Development Grant (USC) (\$1000)
2013 – 2015 Emerging Scholar Award (SHSU) (\$200)
2012 Bearkats Read to Succeed Essay Scholarship Recipient (SHSU) (\$100)

Competitive Travel Grants

2021 The Graduate School Travel Grant (USC) (\$500)
2018 – 2019 The Graduate School Travel Grant (USC) (\$500)
2018 Supplemental Travel Funding for Department Service (USC) (\$250)
2016 College of Science (COS) Undergraduate Research Travel Award (SHSU) (\$1000)

INVITED TALKS (first author is presenting author unless noted)

Harris, M.E. (2023). *Working with the Wind: Assessing Management Strategies for Enhancing Coastal Dune Resilience in South Carolina*. Hazards, Vulnerability, and Resilience Institute (HVRI) Brown Bag Research Talk Series, Columbia, SC.

Harris, M.E., Hulett, C., Raghu, S., Srivastav, A., van de Sandt, J. (2023). *Thriving, Not Just Surviving: Navigating Work-Life Balance in Graduate School*. Women's Leadership Institute Annual Conference, Columbia, SC. (panel presentation)

Ellis, J.T. and **Harris, M.E.** (2021). *Thoughts on Protecting the Isle of Palms Beach-Dune System Notwithstanding Storms and King Tides*. South Carolina Beach Advocates, Wild Dunes Resort, Isle of Palms, SC. (co-presenters)

Gouldman, C., Rayner, R., and **Harris, M.E.** (2020). *The Ocean Enterprise: Delivering the Benefits*. Webinar presented virtually as part of the Marine Technology Society Seminar Series, online. (co-presenters)

Harris, M.E. (2016). *The Sustainability of the Marine Aquarium Fishery Industry on the Big Island of Hawaii*. Invited guest lecture at the Kona Science Café conference series, Kailua-Kona, HI.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (first author is presenting author unless otherwise noted)

Harris, M.E., Ellis, J.T., and Barrineau, B. (2023). *Establishing relationships between topography and vegetation for a post-storm incipient foredune system*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG), Denver, CO.

Ellis, J.T. and **Harris, M.E.** (2021). *King tide and tropical cyclone impacts on a South Carolina coastal dune system*. Annual Meeting of the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA), New Orleans, LA, online.

Harris, M.E., Schmaus, C., and Cavagnaro, R. (2020). *Powering the Blue Economy: Ocean Observing Prize*. Webinar presented virtually as part of the NOAA Central Library Seminar Series, online. (co-presenters)

Harris, M.E. (2020). *Understanding Coastal Dune Response to Tropical Cyclones*. Webinar presented virtually as part of the NOAA Central Library Seminar Series, online.

Ellis, J.T., Román-Rivera, M.A., **Harris, M.E.**, Tereszkieicz, P.A. (2019). *Post-Storm Beach-Dune Recovery on a Meso Tidal Barrier Island*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA), Myrtle Beach, SC.

Ferguson, J.B., Ellis, J.T., Román-Rivera, M.A., and **Harris, M.E.** (2019). *Geomorphic Response of the Beach-Dune System to the 2017 and 2018 Hurricane Seasons at the Isle of Palms, SC*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA), Myrtle Beach, SC.

Harris, M.E., Ellis, J.T., Ferguson, J.B., and Tereszkieicz, P.A. (2019). *Coastal Management on the Fence: Evaluating the Geomorphic Impact of Sand Fences*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG), Washington, D.C.

Harris, M.E., and Ellis, J.T. (2018). *Analyzing the Efficacy of Hardcore Dunes*. Illustrated paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG), New Orleans, LA.

Harris, M.E. (2016). *The Lion's Share: A Spatial Analysis of the Invasive Red Lionfish, *Pterois volitans**. Illustrated paper presented at the annual Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS) at Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX.

ORGANIZED CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Co-Organizer and Chair, Graduate Student Leadership Panel. 2022 Women's Leadership Institute Annual Conference, USC, Columbia, SC.

Co-Organizer and Co-Chair, Pathways to Success: Reflecting on Careers in Coastal, Aeolian, and Marine Science. Annual Meeting of the American Association of American Geographers (AAG), New York, NY, 2022 (virtual).

Co-Chair, Community Health and Resilience. 2021 Carolinas Climate Resilience Conference, Durham, N.C. (hybrid).

Co-Chair, Charleston Vulnerability and Risk Assessment, Major Findings and Next Steps. 2021 Carolinas Climate Resilience Conference, Durham, N.C. (hybrid).

Co-Organizer and Regional Session Chair, Harmful Algal Blooms and Ocean Acidification Workshop: Defining A Research Agenda. Sponsored by The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Ocean Acidification Program (OAP) and NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS). 2020 (virtual).

Co-Organizer and Session Chair. Modeling, Prediction, and Sensor Networks for U.S. Coastal Inundation and Sea Level Rise. US East Coast Coastal Solutions Workshop 2020 (virtual).

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2022 – Current Geography External Advisory Council, Department of Environmental and Geosciences, Sam Houston State University; *Member*
2022 Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship; *Application Reviewer*
2021 – 2024 American Geophysical Union, Earth and Planetary Surface Processes (EPSP); *Elected Student Committee Member; DEI Subcommittee, Promotion Subcommittee, and Mentorship Subcommittee Member*
2021 – 2022 Knauss Connector Editorial Board Member; *Blue Art Dive Editor for monthly newsletter*
2021 Coastal and Marine Specialty Group (COMA) Annual Board Meeting; *Secretariat*
2021 Norbert P. Psuty Student Paper Merit Award; *Judge*
2020 Fellows for Organized Coastal Efforts (FORCE); *Student Committee Member*
2020 NMFS-Sea Grant Population and Ecosystem Dynamics Fellowship; *Application Reviewer*
2020 Federal Hurricane Disaster Supplemental; *Application Reviewer*
2020 IOOS Diversity and Inclusion STEM Working Group; *Administrative Coordinator*
2020 Knauss Outreach Committee; *University Outreach Co-chair*

DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2024 – Current Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) Seminar Series Committee Member
2022 – 2024 Graduate Fellowship Peer Mentor, National Fellowships and Scholars Program (USC)
2022 Discover USC Volunteer
2021 – 2022 USC Vice President of Research Search Committee Graduate Student Representative
2020 – 2022 Graduate Student Association (GSA)
Chief of Staff to the President (Fall 2021-Spring 2022)
Election Commissioner (Spring 2022)
2019 *Secretary (Fall 2020-Spring 2021)*
2020 – 2022 Provost Advisory Committee for Women's Initiatives (PACWI) (USC)
Graduate Student Subcommittee Chair (2021); Co-chair (2020)
2018 – 2019 Undergraduate Summer Admissions Fair Department of Geography Representative (USC)
2019 Invited Panelist, Center for Teaching Excellence (USC)
2018 Student Professional Development Workshop Organizer (USC)

2018	Library Outreach Committee (USC) <i>Geography Representative</i>
2018	GIS Day Mapathon Committee Co-Lead (USC)
2018	USC Department of Geography, Faculty Search Student Representative
2018	USC Geography Department Career Day Co-Lead
2017 – 2019	USC Department of Geography Graduate Student Association (GGSA) <i>Acting President 04/18 – 2019</i> <i>Vice President 2018 – 04/18</i>
2015 – 2016	Gamma Theta Upsilon, Sam Houston Chapter (SHSU) <i>President – 2016</i> <i>Vice President – 2015</i>
2016 – 2022	Alpha Chi National Honor Society

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND INVOLVEMENT

2024	Letters to a Pre-Scientist PenPal
2024	AKC PupPals Program Volunteer PenPal
2020	Sea Grant Community Engaged Internship Mentor
2018	62nd USC Science and Engineering Fair Judge
2017	Total Solar Eclipse 2017 Community Volunteer at Lake Murray, SC

CERTIFICATES AND TRAINING

2024	First Aid/CPR Certified - DAN
2024	FAA Part 107 Remote Pilot's License
2023	Intercultural Inclusion and Diversity Learning Series Certification (Competitive) (USC)
2021	Teaching Online for Graduate Students Short Course Certification (Competitive) (USC)
2021	Trans Ally Training Certification (USC)
2021	USC Gamecock Recovery Ally (USC)
2021	USC Safe Zone Ally (USC)
2021	Skills, Habits, and Research Program for Graduate Students (SHARPGrads) Certification (USC)

SKILLS

- Topographic/bathymetric surveying: Data collection and analysis for RTK-GPS, terrestrial LiDAR (TLS), sUAS, single beam sonar, and total station
- GIS (ArcMap, ArcGIS Pro, ArcGIS Online, ArcGIS StoryMaps)
- Computing languages: Python
- Field project development, data collection, and management
- Sediment processing (Ro-Tap, CAMSIZER)

SERVICE AS A REVIEWER

Journal of Coastal Research – 2021, 2024
Journal of Environmental Management – 2024