

Peyton Smalls

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Chapel Hill, NC

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL - CHAPEL HILL, NC

Ph.D. in Sociocultural Anthropology (Expected May 2029)

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA - COLUMBIA, SC

B.S. Environmental Science with Leadership Distinction in Research Cum Laude

- 3.7 GPA

HONORS AND AWARDS

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Honorable Mention

- Recognition for strong research potential through a competitive application process

William Averette Anderson Fellow

- National program that supports development of professionals who work within environmental hazard, risk, and extreme events research working to reduce harm and suffering for communities

Outstanding College Student

- Awarded by the MOJA Arts committee the most outstanding college student
- Must be nominated by someone on the committee to be considered

Ronald E. McNair Scholar

- National program that prepares underrepresented undergraduate students for doctoral degrees with statewide cohorts
- Received Outstanding Researcher Award for Educational Gaps in K-12 Youth Due to Institutionalized Racism Project
- Placed 3rd in presentation group

LIFE Scholarship

- South Carolina Scholarship for \$5,000 to \$7,500 for each academic year to students with minimum 3.0 GPA

Garnet Scholar

- University of South Carolina based scholarship for \$500 each academic year

GRANT AWARDS

Kupferer Award

- Pre-dissertation fieldwork award awarded to first-year PhD students in the Anthropology department

Magellan Scholar

- Grant of \$3,000 to fund research project: The Impacts of Learning About Scientists on the Type of People Who “Do Science”
- Office of Undergraduate Research at the University of South Carolina merit based grant

Magellan Guarantee Recipient

- Grant of \$1,500 to fund research project: Examining the Variance of Relatability to Scientists through Geoscientist Spotlights
- Office of Undergraduate Research at the University of South Carolina merit based grant and co-sponsored by TRiO programs

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- **Smalls, P.**, Ryker, K., 2023. Students’ Ability to Relate to Scientists: Impacts of Geoscientist Spotlights. Poster presentation at Earth Educators’ Rendezvous, Pasadena, CA, July 2023.
- **Smalls, P.**, Ryker, K., 2023. Scientists As Relatable Humans: Impacts of Diversity and Reflection. Poster presentation at Discover UofSC, Columbia, SC, April 2023.

- **Smalls, P.**, Ryker, K., 2022. Geoscientist Spotlights Positively Impact Views of the Types of People Who “Do Science,” But Reflection Is Critical. Poster presentation at University of South Carolina School of Earth, Ocean, and Environment Conference, Columbia, SC, November 2022.
- **Smalls, P.**, Ryker, K., 2022. Geoscientist Spotlights Positively Impact Views of the Types of People Who “Do Science,” But Reflection Is Critical. Oral presentation at Geological Society of America Connects, Denver, CO, October 2022.
- **Smalls, P.**, Khan, J., 2022. Educational Gaps in Marginalized Youth Due to Institutionalized Racism. Oral presentation at Baylor Ronald E. McNair Symposium, Waco, TX, August 2022.
- **Smalls, P.**, Khan, J., 2022. Educational Gaps in Marginalized Youth Due to Institutionalized Racism. Oral presentation at University of South Carolina Ronald E. McNair Symposium, Columbia, SC, June 2022.
- **Smalls, P.**, Ryker, K., 2022. The Influence of Geoscientist Spotlights on the Perceived Identities of Scientists. Poster presentation at Earth Educators’ Rendezvous, Minneapolis, MN, May 2022.
- **Smalls, P.**, Ryker, K., Barnes, J., 2022. The Impacts of Learning About Scientists on the Type of People Who “Do Science”. Poster presentation at Discover UofSC, Columbia, SC, April 2022.

INVITED TALKS

Professional Development Workshops

- Increasing Representation of Diverse Geoscientists with Geoscientist Spotlights in Introductory Courses. 2023 Earth Educators’ Rendezvous, Pasadena, CA, July 2023. Co-facilitated with K. Ryker, C. Chilton, and M. Piper.

Panels

- Panelist for the University of South Carolina Office of Undergraduate Research Panel and Pizza Event for Magellan Journey Grant recipients. Columbia, SC, February 2023.
- Panelist for the Ronald E. McNair Scholar Summer Program at the University of South Carolina for the Graduate School Experience. Columbia, SC, June 2024.
- Panelist for the University of South Carolina Office of Undergraduate Research Workshop on Preparing for Graduate School for REUs on campus. Columbia, SC, June 2024.

PUBLICATIONS

- **Smalls, P.** Fall 2023. All for One And One For All: Diversity In The Geosciences. Carolina CrossTalk.
https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/undergraduate_research/documents/crosstalk_issue7_sp3.pdf

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES

Co-Chair for the Society for Anthropology Students | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Anthropology Department | August 18 - current

- Organizes and leads new graduate student orientation and welcome party
- Schedules and leads meetings internally and with department leadership
- Takes meeting minutes to share with all Anthropology graduate students
- Oversees nominations and elections for SAS positions

Diversity Committee Member for the Society for Anthropology Students | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Anthropology Department | August 18 - current

- Promotes inclusive practices in the department by advocating for marginalized students and promoting resources that ensure diverse and inclusive thinking among graduate students, faculty, and staff

Leadership Programs Graduate Assistant | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Center for Faculty Excellence | March 15 - current

- Serve on selection committee for leadership awards
- Import and export data from interfaces such as Qualtrics and Microsoft Suite
- Coordinate meetings and schedule events among three faculty based programs

Teaching Assistant | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill | August 2024 - current

- Facilitate discussion with three sections with 16 to 20 students in each of them ranging from first years to seniors

- Grade exams that include short answer essay questions, fill in the blank, and matching

Research Advisor | University of South Carolina Office of Undergraduate Research| January 2024 - July 2024

- Compile feedback for research ambassadors from instructors over the course of a semester
- Constructed a recruitment document for incoming research ambassador cohort
- Create forms and items using Microsoft Office applications
- Schedule outreach events and professional development workshops
- Review Ambassador applications
- Assist in planning research symposium Discover USC using PRISMM event planning interface

Senior Magellan Ambassador | University of South Carolina Office of Undergraduate Research| Summer 2023 - December 2023

- Co-mentored five undergraduate researchers from Morris College during the Summer of 2023 and facilitated professional development programming
- Consulted 58 students on how to get started in research over the summer and fall semester
- Tabled 13 orientation sessions for freshman and transfer students, speaking to over 390 students and parents about research
- Created graphics using Canva for events and announcements

Magellan Ambassador | University of South Carolina Office of Undergraduate Research| Fall 2022 - Spring 2023

- Facilitated interactive oral presentations in 12 University 101 classes to over 247 students and tabled two university events for outreach
- 1 of 24 undergraduate students selected for research leadership training program

Peer Mentor | University of South Carolina School of Earth, Ocean, and Environment | Fall 2022-Fall 2023

- Volunteered to guide three first-year students through their first semester of university
- Met with students monthly and facilitated questions and resources for organization

RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

Research Assistant, Geoscience Education | University of South Carolina: School of Earth, Ocean, and Environment | August 2021 – December 2023

- Created database of 30 diverse geoscientists to be implemented in introductory level geology courses of approximately 213 students
- Performed thematic analysis to code 426 introductory students pre- and post-semester responses on their idea of a scientist
- Demonstrated strong writing skills and generated two successful grant proposals
- Research project: The Influence of Geoscientist Spotlights on the Perceived Identities of Scientist (Fall 2021 - December 2023)
- Funded by Magellan Scholar grant and Magellan Guarantee grant
- Mentor: Dr. Katherine Ryker

Ronald E. McNair Scholar | University of South Carolina | Summer 2022

- Performed a literature review of ten sources on topics related to racial disparities within education and long term effects on students
- Wrote a 17 page research paper on the intersectionality of educational gaps and institutionalized racism
- Research project: Educational Gaps in K-12 Youth due to Institutionalized Racism (Summer 2022)
- Mentor: Dr. Jamil Khan

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCES AND TRAINING

CycleBar Experience Staff | August 2024 - August 2025

- Provide top of the line service to all new and existing riders
- Execute sales and hospitality process of first time rider experience
- Maintain acceptable level of personal sales production
- Work collaboratively with studio management and franchise owners

Volunteer at Midlands Orphan Relief | Fall 2023

- Volunteered weekly for two hours
- Sorted clothes and curated care packages that include two weeks worth of clothes, three books, and a toy

Member of Alliance of Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math | Fall 2023

- Participates in community service events
- Attends bi-weekly meetings

Member of Young Life College - Downtown Columbia | Fall 2023

- Christian based young adult organization
- Attends community building events and weekly meetings

Member of National Association of the Advancement of Colored People | Spring 2021

- Participated in social advocacy group through virtual meetings and fundraising

Cashier at Publix | September 2018 – June 2023

- Created customer relations by helping to complete purchases, locate items, and join rewards programs
- Answered questions and solved problems, as well as addressing customer concerns
- 10-15 hours a week

Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative Program

- Completed Human Subjects Research and Responsible Conduct of Research course
- Reviewed ethical documents and answered quiz questions

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

- Environmental Science and Policy
- Environmental Ethics
- Environmental Science
- Engaged Ethnography
- Oral Histories and Life Stories