

SHANNON CONNER

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Assistant Professor
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Environmental Studies

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EDUCATION

2025	Doctor of Philosophy , Engineering and Science Education Clemson University <i>Advisor: Dr. Kelly Best Lazar</i>	Clemson, SC
2021	Master of Science , Geology Washington State University <i>Advisor: Dr. Catherine Cooper</i>	Pullman, WA
2018	Bachelor of Science , Geology; Minor: Physics Edinboro University of Pennsylvania	Edinboro, PA

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

August 2026 - Present	Assistant Professor , Environmental Studies Brevard College (Brevard, NC)
July 2025 - July 2026	Visiting Assistant Professor , Environmental Studies Davidson College (Davidson, NC)
Aug 2021-Aug 2025	Research Assistant , Student Pathways in Engineering and Computing Transfer (SPECTRA) Program; planned and executed educational research. Clemson University (Clemson, SC)
Summer 2022-Fall 2023	Graduate Assistant , Science As Art (SAA); organization and running of SAA event. Clemson University (Clemson, SC)
Summer 2022-Summer 2023	Graduate Assistant , Motivation and Attitudes in Engineering (MAE); survey design, dissemination, analysis, and reporting. Funded through the Dean's Office. Clemson University (Clemson, SC)

TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

August 2026 - Present	Instructor of Record , ENV 101 (Intro); ENV 365 (GIS) Brevard College (Brevard, NC)
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July 2025- July 2026	Instructor of Record , ENV 201 (Intro); ENV 331 (Hazards) Davidson College (Davidson, NC)
Aug 2024-Dec 2024	Graduate Instructor of Record , ESED 8100 (Orientation) Clemson University (Clemson, SC)
Jan 2024-May 2024	Co-Instructor of Record , GEOL 1010 (Intro) Clemson University (Clemson, SC)
Aug 2018-May 2021	Teaching Assistant (Lab Instructor) , GEO 101 (Intro), GEO 210 (History) Washington State University (Pullman, WA)
Aug 2017-May 2018	Teaching Assistant (Lab Aide), Remedial Math Edinboro University of Pennsylvania (Edinboro, PA)

MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Jan 2026 - Aug 2026	Graduate Researcher (1 student) Education coding and analysis through the SPECTRA Program Clemson University (Clemson, SC)
Summer 2024	REU Co-Mentor (1 student) Resilience and Adaptation to Coastal Change Across Communities (C2C) Eastern Carolina University, Clemson University, and University of Puerto Rico, Arecibo (Outer banks, NC)
Aug 2023-June 2024	Undergraduate Research (1 student) Foraminifera and microplastics research Clemson University (Clemson, SC)
Aug 2021-June 2024	Undergraduate Research (6 students) Education research, design, and analysis through the SPECTRA Program Clemson University (Clemson, SC)

OUTREACH

Summer 2026	Assistant Coordinator , <i>SC Governors School for Science and Mathematics</i> GOSCITECH Day Camp. Middle School Programing. (Greenville, SC)
Summer 2018	Intern , <i>Rachel Carson Homestead</i> ; Designed locally relevant curriculum and programs for PreK-12 th grade. (Springdale, PA)
Summer 2017	Intern , <i>Mercer County Conservation District</i> ; Designed, planned, and ran environmental education programs/events for PreK-Adult. (Mercer, PA)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2021-2026 **SPECTRA Program**
PI: Dr. Matthew Boyer
Project: *The Student Pathways in Engineering and Computing Transfer (SPECTRA) Program is an NSF-SSTEM funded transfer program for low-income students transitioning from SC technical colleges to Clemson University's engineering and computing programs. Utilized both qualitative and quantitative techniques.*
Clemson University (Clemson, SC)
- 2021-2025 **Dissertation:** *Connecting geohazard risk and experience to introductory students' career motivations and geoscience interest*
PI: Dr. Kelly Lazar
Project: *A mixed methods study which resulted in the development of a geoscience interest scale and analysis of the influence of natural hazard experiences. Utilized quantitative, qualitative, and geospatial techniques.*
Clemson University (Clemson, SC)
- 2023-2025 **Foraminifera and Microplastics:** *Exploration of microplastic incorporation into foraminiferal tests, Charleston County, SC*
PI: Dr. Kelly Lazar
Project: *Analysis of foraminifera and microplastics along the coast of South Carolina (Charleston Area). Utilized scanning electron microscopy (SEM), Raman microscopy, and fluorescent dye techniques.*
Clemson University (Clemson, SC)
- Summer 2022-
Summer 2023 **Motivations and Attitudes in Engineering (MAE)**
PI: Dr. Lisa Benson
Project: *Analyzing students' motivations in pursuing engineering degrees, their goals, and attitudes. The project was run through the CECAS Dean's office. Utilized quantitative techniques.*
Clemson University (Clemson, SC)
- 2018-2021 **Master's Thesis:** *Modeling the Stability of Cratons Containing Pre-Existing Weaknesses*
Advisor: Dr. Catherine Cooper
Project: *Modeled cratonic lithosphere containing a weakened central section to determine the level of deformation that occurred. Utilized Python and quantitative analysis.*
Washington State University (Pullman, WA)

JOURNAL ARTICLES

In review	Sadrashrafi, S., Conner, S. , Neyens, D.M., Kurz, M.E. (2026). Inquiry into the Career Goals and Achievements of Graduated Students after Participating in an Undergraduate Transfer and Scholarship Program. <i>Journal of Higher Education</i> .
In review	Conner, S. , Lazar, K.B. (2025). Connecting students' interest in geoscience to their experience and proximity to various geological hazards. <i>Journal Geoscience Education</i> .
2025	Conner, S. , Lazar, K.B. (2025). Evaluation and adaptation of the Interest Development Scale for use in the geosciences. <i>Journal of Geoscience Education</i> . https://doi.org/10.1080/10899995.2025.2502883
2025	Conner, S. , Harvey, T.G., Boyer, D.M., Kurz, M.B., Neyens, D. (2025). Engineering identity of non-traditional students in an undergraduate transfer program. <i>The Journal of Continuing Higher Education</i> . https://doi.org/10.1080/07377363.2025.2468403

PEER REVIEWED WORKS

2026	Harman, M., Gallagher, E., Dunn, H., Conner, S. , Jamison, A., Carpenter, J., Boyer, D.M., Mbawambo, N., Dean, D. <i>RIEF: Assessing Student Engagement in a BME-focused Global Experiential Learning Program Through Application of Situated Learning Theory</i> . 2026 American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) Conference.
2025	Conner, S. , Boyer, M.B. (2025). <i>Work-in-Progress: Inquiry into the career goals and achievements of graduated students after participating in an undergraduate transfer program</i> . 2025 American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) Conference, Montreal, Canada.
2024	Hubbarth, S., Hunter, A.G., Conner, S. , Boyer, D.M. (2024). <i>WIP: Examining the Multifaceted Significance of Scholarship Programs in STEM</i> . 2024 American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) Conference, Portland, OR, United States.
2024	Conner, S. , Hubbarth, S., Hunter, A.G., Benson, L., Boyer, D.M. (2024). <i>Examining the motivations and experiences of transfer students participating in an undergraduate research course</i> . 2024 American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) Conference, Portland, OR, United States.
2024	Conner, S. , Hubbarth, S., Hunter, A.G., Boyer, D.M. (2024). <i>Impacts of near-peer mentoring between graduate students and undergraduate transfer students in engineering and computing</i> . 2024 American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) Conference, Portland, OR, United States.
2023	Conner, S. , DiSilvestre, O.A., Ridlehuber, M.L., Averitt, L. & Boyer, D.M.

- (2023). *Examining Student Experiences Related to Transfer from Two-Year Technical Colleges to Engineering and Computer Science Degree Programs at a Four-Year Institution*. 2023 American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) Conference, Baltimore, MD, United States.
- 2022 **Conner, S.**, Duncan, L.A., Averitt, L., Boyer, D.M., Kennedy, M. (2022). *Work-in-Progress: Addressing Recruitment Issues with Potential Transfer Students from State Technical Colleges*. 2023 American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) Conference, Minneapolis, MN, United States.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- October 2025 **GSA Connects 2025**
Conner, S., Lazar, K.B. (2025). *A mixed-methods study of natural hazard interest in introductory geoscience students. (Presenting Author)*.
- June 2025 **ASEE 2025 Engineering Educators Bringing the World Together**
Conner, S., Boyer, M.B. (2025). *Work-in-Progress: Inquiry into the career goals and achievements of graduated students after participating in an undergraduate transfer program*.
- March 2025 **SE GSA 2025**
Conner, S., Lazar, K., Carraway, E., Powell, R., Small, E. (2025). *Examining two methods of identifying potential microplastic inclusions in agglutinated species of foraminifera. (Presenting Author)*
- September 2024 **GSA Connects 2024**
Conner, S., Lazar, K. (2024). *Measuring introductory student interest in geoscience using the new four-phase geoscience interest scale (FPGIS). (Presenting Author)*
- September 2024 **GSA Connects 2024**
McKinney, C., **Conner, S.**, Lazar, K. (2024). *Development of a concept inventory for coastal studies systems thinking: a socio-scientific approach*.
- July 2024 **Earth Educators' Rendezvous**
Conner, S. and Lazar, K.B. (2024). *Career motivations and interest of introductory geoscience students. (Presenting author)*
- June 2024 **ASEE 2024 The Future of Engineering Education**
Hubbarth, S., Hunter, A.G., **Conner, S.**, Boyer, M. (2024). *WIP: Examining the Multifaceted Significance of Scholarship Programs in STEM. (Presenting author)*
- June 2024 **ASEE 2024 The Future of Engineering Education**
Conner, S., Hubbarth, S., Hunter, A.G., Boyer, M. (2024). *Impacts of near-peer mentoring between graduate students and undergraduate*

June 2024	<i>transfer students in engineering and computing.</i> (Presenting author) ASEE 2024 The Future of Engineering Education Conner, S., Hubbarth, S., Hunter, A.G., Benson, L., Boyer, M. (2024). <i>Examining the motivations and experiences of transfer students participating in an undergraduate research course.</i> (Presenting author)
April 2024	Council for the Study of Community Colleges (CSCC) 2024 Cooper, D., Voigt, M., Maher, M., Conner, S., & Boyer, M. (2024). <i>Aligning community cultural wealth and culturally relevant pedagogy to increase STEM transfer success.</i>
April 2024	SE GSA 2024 Small, E., Conner, S., Lazar, K.B. (2024). <i>Exploration of SEM and Raman analytical techniques to determine microplastic incorporation in foraminifera.</i>
March 2024	David S. Snipes Clemson Hydrogeology Symposium Small, E., Conner, S., Lazar, K.B. (2024). <i>Multi-Instrument Investigation of Potential Microplastic Incorporation Within Foraminiferal Tests, Charleston, South Carolina</i>
March 2024	David S. Snipes Clemson Hydrogeology Symposium Conner, S. and Lazar, K.B. (2024) <i>Comparing Student Interest in Geoscience to Their Risk and Exposure to Water Related Geohazards.</i> (Presenting author)
Jan 2024	S2ERC 2024 Hubbarth, S., Hunter, A.G., Conner, S., Boyer, D.M. (2024). <i>Examining the impact of design-based research methods on project implementation.</i>
Oct 2023	GSA Connects 2023 Conner, S., Lazar, K. (2023). <i>Connecting risk, water hazard interest, and career motivations with pre-existing data and student survey responses: an interdisciplinary approach.</i> (Presenting author)
June 2023	ASEE 2023 The Harbor of Engineering Conner, S., DiSilvestre, O. A., Ridlehuber, M. L., Averitt, L.& Boyer, D. M. (2023). <i>Examining Student Experiences Related to Transfer from Two-Year Technical Colleges to Engineering and Computer Science Degree Programs at a Four-Year Institution.</i> (Presenting author)
Oct 2022	GSA Connects 2022 Boyd, E.A., Conner, S., Lazar, K.B. (2022). <i>Identification of Science Students' Opportunities and Barriers to Undergraduate Research Experiences.</i>
June 2022	ASEE 2022 Excellence Through Diversity Conner, S., Duncan, L.A., Averitt, L., Boyer, D.M., Kennedy, M. (2022). <i>Work-in-Progress: Addressing Recruitment Issues with Potential Transfer Students from State Technical Colleges.</i> (Presenting author)
Oct 2020	GSA Connects Online 2020

Conner, S., Cooper, C.M. (2020). *Modeling the stability of cratons containing pre-existing weaknesses.* (Presenting author)

INVITED TALKS AND GUEST LECTURES

March 2026	Invited Speaker Climate Conversations. Student Sustainability Collective; Davidson College (Davidson College)
April 2025	Guest Lecture Coastal vulnerability. Earth Science Department; Clemson University (Clemson, SC)
April 2025	Guest Lecture Sustainable cities. Earth Science Department; Clemson University (Clemson, SC)
March 2025	Guest Lecture Earthquakes. Earth Science Department; Clemson University (Clemson, SC)
Feb 2025	Guest Lecture Mixed Methods Research Engineering and Science Education Department; Clemson University (Clemson, SC)
Jan 2025	Guest Lecture Ground water Earth Science Department; Clemson University (Clemson, SC)
April 2024	Seminar Speaker Hazard impacts on geoscience interest Engineering and Science Education Department; Clemson University (Clemson, SC)
April 2024	Guest lecture Global water resource management Earth Science Department; Clemson University (Clemson, SC)
Feb 2024	Guest lecture E-waste and the environment Computer Science Department; Clemson University (Clemson, SC)
Jan 2023	Guest lecture Atmospheric Science Earth Science Department; Clemson University (Clemson, SC)

FIELD RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Summer 2024	Clemson University (Clemson, SC) <i>VR Imaging</i> Collected field images in Scotland for a VR education experience.
Fall 2023	Clemson University (Clemson, SC) <i>Microplastic and foraminifera sampling</i> Collection of coastal marsh sediments, foraminifera, and microplastics.
Spring 2023	Clemson University (Clemson, SC) <i>Microplastic sampling</i>
Summer 2020	Washington State University (Pullman, WA) <i>Field Assistant</i>

Summer 2019	Collection and mapping of basalt samples. University of Idaho (Moscow, ID) <i>Geomorphology Field Assistant</i> Collection and mapping of granite samples and formations.
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HONORS, AWARDS, & FELLOWSHIPS

2025	CECAS GSAB Travel Award
2025	GSA SE Section Student Travel Award
2024	Outstanding Graduate Researcher Award (Clemson Engineering and Science Education)
2023	GSA Education Division Travel Grant
2022	Clemson Graduate Travel Grant
2020	Dr. Matthew Brzostowski Scholarship
2020	H. Walter and Jeanette Praetorius/Exxon Graduate Fellowship
2019	H. Walter and Jeanette Praetorius/Exxon Graduate Fellowship
2019	Robert Lane Fellowship in Environmental Sciences

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

2025-Present	Communication Officer Coastal and Marine Geoscience Division (elected position) <i>Geoscience Society of America</i>
2025 - 2026	Faculty Government Participant <i>Davidson College</i>
2025- Present	Reviewed for <i>Journal of Geoscience Education; Frontiers in Education</i>
2023 – 2025	Co-Leader of a Student Accountability Writing Group Co-organized and ran a student led, department wide, writing accountability group. <i>Clemson University</i>
2023 – 2025	Department Student Advisory Committee Student advisor to the department chair Engineering and Science Education <i>Clemson University</i>
2023 –2024	Graduate Student Senator Graduate student representative in Graduate Student Government.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2021-Present **Geological Society of America (GSA)**

2022-Present **American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE)**

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATIONS

2025 **CITI Bloodborne Pathogens Course**

2021-Present **CITI Human Subjects Protections Course**

2021-Present **CITI Social and Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research Course**

2024 **ArcGIS Training** Clemson Center for Geospatial Technologies Certificate of Attendance

2025 **ArcGIS pro Training** Clemson Center for Geospatial Technologies Certificate of Attendance

2025 **Van Training** 15 passenger van, Davidson College

WORKSHOPS

2025 Forging the Resistance Workshop: Understanding Accessibility (Attendee)

2024 This is the Way: Understanding Accessibility Workshop (Attendee)

2024 Create Engaging and Immersive Earth Science Field Explorations for your Classroom Workshop (Attendee)

Last updated June 2026