

HEATHER LYNNE KOZAK THORNTON

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EDUCATION

Georgia Southern University
Master of Education, Higher Education **2016**

Clemson University
Master of Science, Zoology **2005**

University of North Carolina at Wilmington
Bachelors of Science, Marine Biology **2002**
Minor: Psychology
Academic Achievement Award Fall 2001
Dean's List 2001, 2002

JOB EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Biology Instructor and Online Instructor **2017-Present**

University of South Carolina at Beaufort

- Instructor in the Department of Science and Mathematics
- Teach courses in Marine Science, majors General Biology I and II, Ecology and Evolution, Environmental Biology, Cell and Molecular Lab, Anatomy and Physiology I and II, and Invertebrate Biology Lab.
- Develop and teach an online course for the non-science major marine course both in lecture and lab content

Academic Advisor and Student Success Coordinator **August 2014 – 2017**

Armstrong State University

- Served as an academic advisor to undergraduate students, specifically students in STEM degrees
- Assisted students with degree plans, course selection and registration process to support student persistence
- Heled students understand academic policies and procedures and provide information about academic support services
- Assisted in the coordination and execution of new student orientations for freshman and transfer students, including student placement, registration through BANNER and presentation of academic information
- Coordinated, developed reports, and supervised advisors for the Learning Support Program
- Provided leadership as the search chair for hiring of three Academic Advisor positions
- Served on the leadership team and a trainer for the EAB Student Success Collaborative
- Trained and supervised work study students
- Provided additional support to students that are on academic warning and probation by creating academic success plans and providing additional coaching to these students
- Developed and deliver seminars that enhance student success and increase persistence particularly for first year students
- Evaluated transfer coursework and requirements for transfer students
- Used early alert system to create campaigns for students at-risk to improve student success and retention
- Created, organized and lead the Learning Living Community for freshmen science majors
- Taught student success course to struggling students on Academic Intervention

Biology Instructor-Faculty**August 2011 – July 2014***Armstrong State University*

- Led courses in Principles of Biology II Lecture and Laboratory, Life and Earth Science for Early Childhood Educators, Principles of Biology I Laboratory, General Biology for Non-Science Majors and Diversity of Life
- Designed course curriculum and assessments
- Served as an advisor for students majoring in biology
- Lead Instructor for Math and Science Partnership Grant with Savannah Chatham County Public School System; supervised the assistant instructor and provided professional development for middle school Science Teachers

Adjunct Faculty and Tutor**August 2008-May 2011***University of South Carolina at Beaufort*

- Part-time instructor in the Department of Science and Mathematics
- Taught courses in Marine Science for non-science majors and General Biology II for science majors
- Tutored students in biology courses
- Conducted academic workshops for undergraduate students

Middle School Science Teacher**August 2007-June 2008***Savannah Chatham County Public School System*

- Instructed 6th grade students in an Earth Science course
- Created lessons plans for the daily teaching of science content following the Georgia State Standards

Aquarium Curator**May 2006-July 2007***Tybee Island Marine Science Center*

- Supervised staff for the maintenance of aquariums and animals; nutritional requirements, health assessments and water chemistry
- Creatively developed and taught informal marine education programs for children and adults
- Developed the budget for the department and responsible for purchasing supplies
- Coordinated the Sea Turtle Project in collaboration with the Department of Natural Resources

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Using a Pre-Advisement Questionnaire to Create a Student-Centered Narrative* 2016
Presentation at NACADA, Annual National Conference, Atlanta, GA
- “Three Legs of Persistence” First Year Seminar: Advisement, Registration and Financial Aid Literacy* 2016
Presentation at Second Annual Georgia First-Year and Transition Studies Conference, Kennesaw, GA
- Using Narrative to Engage and Retain Students First Generation and Underprepared Students* 2015
Presentation at NACADA Drive-In Conference, Kennesaw, GA
- Female Mating Preference for male morphological traits used in species and mate recognition in sailfin mollies *Poecilia velifera* and *Poecilia petenensis** 2007
Journal Publication in Behavioral Ecology
- Female mating preference for male traits used in species recognition in sailfin mollies*
Presentation at Natural Resources Graduate Student Association Symposium, Clemson, SC

2005

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Online Teaching and Learning, USCB, Summer 2020
- Safe Space Training, Armstrong State University Fall 2016
- Education Advisory Board, Specialist Program for Student Success Collaborative; Fall 2015
- Data, Analytics, and Student Learning; Inside Higher Educ. Fall 2015
- Trends in Academic Advising; Higher Ed Live Summer 2015
- Advising for Military Students; NACADA Webinar Spring 2015
- Writing for the Web Workshop; Fall 2015

LEADERSHIP

- Elected NACADA Georgia Liaison for the Region IV Steering Committee, 2016-2018
- Chosen Mentor for the First Mate Mentor Program for new employees; 2016-2017

SKILLS

- Microsoft Office; Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, Access
- Expression Engine; Web Content Management, D2L, and Folio Blackboard Online Learning Platforms
- Degree Works, SSC Campus (GradesFirst), BANNER, ARGOS

MEMBERSHIPS

- NACADA; National Academic Advising Association
- Georgia Southern Higher Education Graduate Student Organization

VOLUNTEER WORK

- First Year Convocation Usher, Fall 2014, 2015, 2016
- Biology Evolution Course Poster Presentation Judge, Spring 2014
- USCB Career Fair; Spring 2011
Assisted with student registration and organization of event to support student affairs
- National Ocean Sciences Bowl; Spring 2010
Science judge for high school marine science competition
- Elementary School Science Fair Judge: Spring 2007